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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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SAUDI ARABIA STRIVES TO RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 345, 1 Oct 83 pp 17-18

[Article by Sulayman Nimr: "Saudi Arabia Is Moving From Solving the Lebanese Crisis to Solving the Other Arab Conflicts"]

[Text] Last Saturday, while the Lebanese capital and the Lebanese servously watched the latest chance for a cease fire and the latest efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia to achieve agreement on such a cease fire reached an impasse, the Saudi capital was also experiencing some decisive hours as it received, bit by bit, the consecutive reports of the assistant Saudi envoy, Mr Rafiq al-Hariri, concerning the results of his meetings and contacts in Damascus.

The Saudi capital held these hours to be the decisive and fateful ones because Mr Rafiq al-Hariri carried to Damascus the final solution to the Lebanese tragedy. The failure of the parties involved in the mountain war to accept this solution would first of all mean that the only solution would be a military decision, which in turn would pose the danger of the partition of Lebanon.

On that day, a high Saudi official commented to AL-MUSTAQBAL that: "If a cease fire agreement is not reached and the national dialogue does not begin within the next 24 hours, then there will be no room left for mediation, or for exerting efforts and trying to get a cease fire." This high Saudi official, who is a government figure in Saudi Arabia, went on to tell AL-MUSTAQBAL, in a tone of mingled worry and pessimism, that: "This is the last chance for all the Lebanese factions, if they want there to be a united, independent Lebanon which enjoys national sovereignty. If this chance is lost, then Lebanon will be partitioned and destroyed, for there will no longer be any room for mediation or for exerting efforts to achieve any agreement at all." The Saudi official made it clear that: "there are still some complications in the positions which threaten to ruin everything. These complications, which Saudi Arabia is exerting all its efforts to overcome, are what is causing pessimism to predominate currently."

On the evening of that day--last Saturday--instead of Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan's airplane, which was waiting at Jiddah Airport to take off for Damascus at any moment, actually doing so, the airplane used by Mr Rafiq al-Hariri touched down. He had returned from the Syrian capital, and he went

immediately to meet with Prince Bandar bin Sultan, so that the two of them could present the latest developments in the situation to the Saudi monarch.

With Mr al-Hariri back in Jiddah, political observers agreed unanimously that everything was over, and that there was no longer any room for mediation or for Saudi or non-Saudi efforts. Everyone began to wait for the Saudi statement which would announce the cessation of efforts and clarify the responsibility of all parties for what had happened.

In the midst of this gloomy atmosphere, the Saudi monarch, King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, was the only man who still felt hope and optimism concerning the possibility of arriving at a solution of the complexities which had kept the cease fire agreement from being signed in the last few hours.

Informed sources in Jiddah said these complexities, which had blocked the task of the assistant Saudi envoy, had to do with two points. If they were solved, then no new problems would block a cease fire agreement.

The first point has to do with the matter of obtaining prior assurances from the Lebanese Government that it will bind itself to implementing the resolutions issued by the proposed national dialogue conference.

The second point has to do with the absence of agreement over the deployment of the Lebanese army in the mountain.

In order to resolve these two difficulties, the Saudi monarch, King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, and his assistant, Mr Rafiq al-Hariri, stayed up all Saturday and into the early hours of Sunday morning, making contact with Damascus and Beirut. As AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned, the result of these contacts was that a solution was proposed for these two difficulties. The first would be solved by having representatives of the legislative and executive branches of the government attend the sessions of the Lebanese national dialogue, with President Amin al-Jumayyil as chairman. With the legislative branch helping to chair the sessions of the dialogue conference and its members in attendance at them, the resolutions issued by the conference would be binding on everyone. The second difficulty would be solved by withdrawing all Lebanese Front forces from their remaining positions in the mountain, while deploying the army along the international Beirut--Damascus highway.

A problem arose in connection with this point which had to do with the fact that the Lebanese Front would refuse to withdraw its forces from the positions it controls in the mountain. It was left up to the American envoy, Robert McFarlane, who was in Beirut, to solve this problem through his contacts with the Lebanese Front.

At dawn last Sunday, after these suggestions had been worked out following intensive contacts between Jiddah and both Damascus and Beirut, the Saudi monarch turned in to await President al-Jumayyil's meeting with the members of his government, at which he would get their final opinion on the last draft of the proposed agreement. The Saudi monarch was also waiting to hear

the result of Robert McFarlane's meeting with former President Camille Sham'un and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. The final answer came on Sunday afternoon, and at 5:30 pm, the airplane belonging to Saudi envoy Prince Bandar bin Sultan took off for Damascus with himself and his assistant, Rafiq al-Hariri, on board. This happened so that both the Lebanese capital and the Syrian capital could announce that agreement had been reached on a cease fire after 28 days of intense effort on the part of Saudi diplomacy.

All foreign and Arab political sources in Jiddah agree unanimously that the success of Saudi Arabia's efforts to achieve a cease fire in Lebanon is truly a feather in the cap of Saudi diplomacy which has once again proved just how successful and effective is the balanced role played by Saudi policy. These sources say that Saudi Arabia's efforts to reach an agreement on a cease fire among all of the warring factions in Lebanon and to begin the Lebanese national dialogue would have been for naught, had it not been for the Saudis' insistence on continuing to try to solve the crisis, although often their efforts came to an impasse. This was especially true last Saturday, when the assistant Saudi envoy was holding his meetings in Damascus and the last two difficulties arose which caused a final loss of hope that a solution would be reached.

A high Saudi official told AL-MUSTAQBAL that: "If the Saudi monarch had not been convinced and believed that it was necessary to do the impossible to save Lebanon, Saudi Arabia's efforts would have ceased on Saturday evening. However, because our historic leadership knows how to act at historic and decisive moments, and how to find the last solution at the last moment when hope is gone, King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz did not despair or lose hope, despite the dominant atmosphere of pessimism. Rather, he found the solution which forced them all to bear their responsibilities, and so they were favorable to it."

This Saudi official added: "There are two primary factors behind the success of Saudi Arabia's efforts to achieve the latest Lebanese agreement. These two factors are:

"1. King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz's conviction and insistence on reaching an agreement.

"2. Saudi Arabia's balanced policy, which has tried to refrain from taking a stand with one faction and against the other. It was this that made all the factions receptive to Saudi Arabia's efforts and convinced them of the positive nature and soundness of the Saudi role. The Kingdom could have issued statements and taken political positions having nothing to do with the ability to act. However, one of the most important principles of Saudi policy is to refrain from slogans and making accusations. The Kingdom has worked and exerted its efforts, rather than making statements. For when Saudi Arabia found that some people were understanding some personal interpretations of its positions in a negative way, it was eager to affirm that, in its efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis, it was not imposing a certain solution or point of view on anyone. Rather, it was working on the assumption that it was not a party to this conflict. Thus, its role was accepted and welcomed by everyone.

Indeed, all the factions were so favorable to these efforts that they were crowned last Sunday evening by general agreement on the accord which we hope will be the foundation stone for ending the Lebanese tragedy and building a powerful Lebanese state."

Anyone who meets Saudi officials these days in Jiddah and Biyadh can clearly note how very optimistic they are because of Saudi diplomacy's success in achieving the recent Lebanese agreement. However, they think that the major responsibility for successfully exploiting this historic opportunity to revive Lebanon falls on the shoulders of the Lebanese officials, especially the government and the other factions, to whom the opportunity is being given.

A Saudi official told AL-MUSTAQBAL that President Amin al-Jumayyil now has an excellent opportunity to achieve national reconciliation and reunify Lebanon and its strength. To do so, President al-Jumayyil must "strike the iron while it's hot," as the Saudi official put it.

But if this opportunity is allowed to slip away--may God forbid--"there will be no further opportunity for reviving Lebanon. Then all the Lebanese will bear the consequences of what will happen to their country."

Thus, the success of Saudi Arabia's efforts makes Saudi officials more optimistic than at any time in the past that the 14th Arab Summit conference will be held in Riyadh at the time scheduled for it, which is this November.

When AL-MUSTAQBAL asked a Saudi Government figure last Monday whether the next Arab summit would be held on time in Riyadh, he answered, "We have no doubt about it."

12224

CSO: 4404/77

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

NEW HOSPITAL TO AID IRANIANS--The government of South Yemen recently set up a special military hospital in Mukayras district to admit Iranian war-wounded and casualties who are flown in directly from Teheran to Aden. This was because of the recent increase in the numbers of those wounded so that the Ministry of Health hospitals in Aden and those in the rest of the provinces of the PDRY had to set aside enough beds to receive sick Yemenis as well as Iranians. Because of this and after the South Yemeni public began to complain of the distressing political stance taken by Ali Nasir Muhammad's government toward the Gulf war and the Iranian attack, complaining of the official support shown for Iran against the fraternal Iraqi state, the ruling regime in Aden was compelled to set up this military hospital separately attended to by doctors and surgeons from Cuba, East Germany, and Ethiopia. What is strange about this situation is that the Minister of Health of South Yemen in Aden does not have any information or details about the progress of this military hospital in Mukayras than does the ordinary man in the street. [Text] [Cairo SAWT AL-JANUB AL-YAMANI in Arabic No 66 31 Aug 83 p 17] 9587

LIBYA FINANCES HOSPITAL--An agreement was concluded between the Marxist regime in Aden and the Libyan regime to undertake an emergency hospital to provide treatment for Iranians wounded in the on-going Iran-Iraq war. The hospital will consist of tents and prefabricated houses in Shu'ayb near the town of al-Dhali'a. According to the agreement, Libya will carry the full cost of the hospital from building to medical treatment. [Text] [Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic No 37, 15 Sep 83 p 8] 9587

DISCOVERY OF CONSPIRACY--A responsible Gulf source affirmed that a large conspiratorial plot has been discovered in the Gulf. It had intended to upset the peace and security of the region and to plunge it into bloodshed. The source reported that the conspirators had their headquarters in Bahrain and that the conspiracy was led by a Bahraini and was built from several independent cells in which a number of North Yemeni, Palestinian, South Yemeni, and Iranian terrorists participated. He reported that the conspirators had built up a large cache of various arms including explosives, machine guns, pistols, and some heavy arms stored in areas throughout the Gulf, especially in Bahrain and Dubayy and elsewhere. In the informant's words: "The conspiracy was preparing to disrupt the next Gulf Cooperation Council meeting which would include the heads of the Gulf states. Had it not been

for the attention of the authorities it would be impossible to know what the consequences would have been of this conspiracy." AL-WAHDAH has learned that the first thread of these plottings was discovered on Cairo, then security forces followed it to the Gulf until the conspiratorial elements fell into the hands of police forces. Secret investigations are still under way. Officials in the Gulf refused to reveal anything about the progress of investigations after the conspirators confessed that their financing came from Libya and that other countries were involved in the plot. [Text] [Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic No 37, 15 Sep 83 pp 8-9] 9587

IRAQ, KUWAIT POWER LINK--PLANS are underway to establish electric cable links between Iraq and Kuwait, says Mr Walid Salim, Iraq's director of electricity generation and transportation department. The two countries are currently preparing a study to carry out the project, planned some months ago. Power supplies in Iraq have not been affected by the war with Iran and, indeed, have been improving over the years, said Mr Salem. He said that Iraq had designed the power network to extend it to neighbouring countries such as Syria and Kuwait. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Oct 83 p 7]

CSO: 4400/63

ASYUT PARTY LEADERS DISCUSS LOCAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION SYSTEM

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2889, 24 Oct 83 pp 10-14

[Interview with various leaders of the local Asyut governorate organizations of the NDP [National Democratic Party], Labor Party, and NPUG [National Progressive Unionist Grouping]: "In Asyut: The Election Game As It Involves the Mayors and Clan Solidarity of the Large Families"; dates and places of interviews not specified]

[Text] The NDP does not benefit from the proportional list system.

The Advisory Council elections took place with a lack of enthusiasm.

The secretary of the Labor Party: "I will sweep away the NDP in Manialut."

The secretary of the NPUG: "We will not boycott the elections for the purpose of manipulation."

Elections in Asyut are being hotly contested, in spite of the fact that the NDP was the only party which participated in the Advisory Council and local council elections.

Circles associated with the party in power are assuring us that the election battle which will be waged during the hot summer season for seats in the People's Assembly will be decided in favor of the NDP, and the opposition parties are counting on "embarrassing" the NDP--if the elections held will be impartial and free ones.

On another level, an internal battle is going on inside the NDP concerning the election list and the fact that so many party members want to be on it--the reason being that this is a sure way to achieve representation in the constitutional and popular bodies.

We left Cairo and went to Asyut in order to see what is going on in the everyday political arena of Upper Egypt with regard to the elections and election lists and in order to find out what the local secretaries of the

three political parties in Asyut think about the future of political activity and the exercise of democracy [In Egypt]. Those who are familiar with everything that is going on and who are devoting all their attention to the management of election campaigns assure us that the use of the list system in Asyut is something which benefits all the parties--with the exception of the NDP.

When I asked for justifications for this strange assertion, I was told that the lists of the opposition parties--even if they participate in the elections--would be lacking in names. I was also told that the NDP list would not be large enough to contain the names of all of its supporters and that the secretary of the party would be forced to eliminate the names of some of the candidates because the list would not be large enough. This, I was told, would result in a fight being waged within the party.

Choosing names for the list is not an easy matter. The secretary of the party usually is confronted with difficult choices because there are pressure groups which try very hard to get their candidates chosen for the list.

These pressure groups can be divided into the following three categories: The first category consists of the supporters of the party secretary who have stood by him in his election campaigns and therefore feel that they are the people who most deserve to be on the list. The second category of people consists of those who represent forces in opposition to the party secretary and who caution against having the election list be regarded as a banquet [to be enjoyed only by the supporters of the party secretary]. They feel this way because they are primarily people of influence and are only secondarily members of the NDP. The third pressure group category consists of people representing a new trend, who have been attracted by the possibility of participating in elections, and who call themselves "the educated class." They include, for example, a doctor from the local hospital, an agricultural inspector, a young attorney, and a physical education teacher.

So the main competition, instead of being between the various parties, has come to be a struggle which is going on only within the ranks of the NDP, and the opposition parties are standing aside and observing this situation from afar.

However, more details should be provided to our readers concerning this matter.

The Mayors and the Large Families

The large families in Asyut stand behind their candidates. The situation of a given candidate depends on the degree of influence of the family which supports him. For example, the Kaylani family in Dayrut, the 'Abd-al-Rahim family in al-Qusiyah, the Mahfuz family in al-Hawatikah, and the Nassar family in al-Badari all have a lot to say about the results of any election and about who is on any election list.

A mayor is still a person who is the head of a given family and is its representative who bears its title. He decides disputes, takes care of security matters, witnesses marriage contracts, walks at the head of funeral processions, and people stand up to greet him if he walks by them. His opinion is also important when it comes to election matters.

It might be no exaggeration if I said that election campaigns in Upper Egypt are conducted in an American fashion, with only the approach being different. A given village authorizes its mayor to choose a candidate, and the village mayor then calls upon all of the people in the village to elect the person whom he has chosen. The strength of any candidate depends on the number of mayors who have promised him their support.

All of the above is pertinent to what we said in the beginning concerning what was said to the effect that "the list system benefits all the parties except the NDP."

Dr 'Abd-al-Paziq Hasan is the most famous surgeon in Upper Egypt and he is, at the same time, the rector of Asyut University and the secretary of the NDP in the governorate of Asyut. When beginning my interview with him, I said: "Dr Hasan, please allow me to begin a political dialogue with you. And I hope that the dialogue will be as precise and businesslike as a surgical operation." The dialogue then went as follows:

Question Do you consider the list system more appropriate for elections in Asyut in view of the domination of certain large families?

Answer Dr Hasan smiled and said: The individual election system, especially in Upper Egypt, results in an elected representative being obligated to his voters as individuals. For example, a member of the People's Assembly spends all day getting a voter's son enrolled in a university, getting employment for a voter's daughter, or solving a police matter involving the use of weapons. This results in the fact that such a member of the People's Assembly is not obligated to his party as he should be.

The list system, however, has caused an elected representative to be obligated to his work and activity within the realm of the program of the party which has the objective of promoting the interests and welfare of all of the citizens of Egypt. As a consequence of this, a representative has come to be obligated to the program of the government and the party which deals with development and public services.

The NDP, via the list system, wants the broad base of the popular masses to be the beneficiary and wants to look after everyone's welfare instead of just the interests of particular people. This is something which is more effective and more beneficial.

Question It is said that the list system is one which is close to being that of a system of appointing representatives. How, then, can such a representative who is appointed by the government party call the government to account for what it is doing?

Answer Must one check up on the government for the purpose of embarrassing it or uncovering its mistakes, or can one not do this job with the single purpose and goal of striving to have the services of the executive apparatus reach the people?

If the goal of representatives and members of the NDP is to promote the welfare of the nation and carry out a policy which more broadly involves the masses, then the list system is something which achieves this goal.

Question What is your opinion concerning the results of the application of the list system in the case of the Advisory Council and the local council elections?

Answer The Advisory Council elections in Asyut were totally impartial elections. In these elections the NDP received 50 percent of the votes, and this was a realistic percentage.

However, this 50 percent does not represent the actual popularity which the party enjoys among the people. It only tells us that people are not enthusiastic about participating in the elections. The reason I say this is that the elections involved no competition from the opposition parties because of their boycott. For this reason I disagree with anyone who says that these elections reflect the popularity or popular base of the NDP. Our party is more popular than was shown by these elections. However, there was insufficient enthusiasm concerning these elections.

As for the local councils, I believe that there will be far more interest in them. In the governorate of Asyut there are 2,450 representatives in the various local and village councils. Perhaps people will be more interested in these elections than they were in the Advisory Council elections.

The campaign involving elections for the People's Assembly, however, will be hard fought. This will be true even though all of the members of the People's Assembly in Asyut are from the NDP. There will be great enthusiasm on the part of people concerning this election.

Question Will the NDP be hurt by the fact that there are so many people who wish to be candidates on the NDP list?

Answer We have 800 more persons than we need who have applied to be candidates for the lists for the local council elections. Those who do not get chosen will perhaps be somewhat resentful. However, they have all come to understand and realize that our party activity is something which goes on on all levels, and is not only something which goes on in the councils with their elected representatives. I believe that, if people are loyal to the party, there will be no problems provided that people realize that being a representative involves accomplishing work more than it involves being given a position of honor--otherwise schisms and splits in the party may occur.

Question How, then, can the party make its choices from among the many candidates?

Answer The secretariat general has issued a number of guidelines concerning this matter. Among them, for example, is the fact that a candidate must be honest and possess integrity. The party also takes into consideration the amount of work which a party member has done and what he has previously accomplished for the party. Furthermore, the party attempts to achieve good representation for all of the families and political forces present in the governorates. In addition to this, the party wishes to have the turnover in its representatives be as small as possible.

The ranking by the party of the various members on the list is something which will lead to some sensitivity being shown on the part of the party members. This will particularly be true if the party does not win all of the seats in the election district. The reason for this is that it means that some members of the party will not end up being in the People's Assembly.

If this happens, there will be great problems. Some members will be guaranteed a permanent seat in the People's Assembly simply by virtue of the fact that they are at the top of the list, and others will have to leave the People's Assembly.

I propose that the names of the candidates be arranged in the list alphabetically at first. After that is done, the final ranking of the candidates in the list can be done in accordance with the percentage of votes which a given candidate has received in his election district. For example, if the representative from al-Ghanayim has received 70 percent of the votes from his election district, the representative from Manfalut has received 65 percent of the votes from his district, and the representative from al-Qusiyah has received 60 percent of the votes from his district, then the representative from al-Ghanayim will be at the top of the list and he will be followed by the representatives from Manfalut and al-Qusiyah.

This approach combines the benefits of the individual election system and the election list system. In addition to this, it would guarantee that a representative continue to visit his election district and solve its problems, and this would guarantee that the election district would stand by him and he would continue to get a high percentage of votes. Furthermore, this would prevent schisms from occurring among the members of the party. Also, this would lead to increased competition among the various election districts.

Question How can political activity in Asyut enjoy a better future?

Answer Every sincere person wishes to see the existence of opposition parties. Opposition parties are a basic and necessary ingredient for the establishment of sound and democratic political life.

Opposition parties are what forces the NDP to be aware of its great responsibilities and to thus work to promote the welfare of the masses. When there is no competition, this leads to slackness and passivity.

Serious and well-intentioned opposition is something which causes the NDP to enthusiastically work harder and achieve more. Real opposition is something

which is accepted and welcomed by every sincere person because all of us are endeavoring to promote the public welfare.

End of interview with Dr Hasan

The Labor Party: "We Are Prepared"

Now our interview involves the opposition parties.

Mr Ahmad Farghali, Dr Ahmad Yasin, and Mr Faruq 'Abd-al-Wahhab are three of the members of the leadership of the Labor Party in the governorate of Asyut. Mr Farghali is the deputy secretary general of the party, Dr Yasin is the party secretary in Asyut, and Mr 'Abd-al-Wahhab is the assistant party secretary for the governorate. The interview with them went as follows:

Question What does your party think about the list system and the degree to which it is appropriate for elections in Agyut?

Answer Dr Yasin: Upper Egypt is an area which is still dominated by tribalism. What this means is that the large families still have a great deal to say and have a great deal of influence concerning what is going on. This being true, both local and popular representation here depend, to a large degree, on the wishes of these families because this is something which reflects the actual situation. This is why we feel that individual representation is what is best.

However, the proportional list system also has its merits. It reduces the problem of factionalism. But it also makes participation something that is determined by appointment rather than by election. The absolute list system, however, is something that we totally reject. The reason for this is that the masses have noticed that, in the case of this system, the element of competition is completely absent. Competition is the thing that impels an elected representative to bring up his views concerning the various issues which are important to people. If there is no competition, then people will stop going to the polls.

For all of the above reasons we prefer either the unconditional proportional list system or individual election system.

Question Why did the elections held to re-elect half of the members of the Advisory Council take place without the participation of the various parties?

Answer The election results do not represent the real situation. The reason for this is that there was no real popular participation in the elections.

Voter registration lists are a mistake. In Asyut, for example, many of the people have emigrated to other Arab countries to work. But in spite of this, they are still on the voter registration lists because these registration lists have not been changed for a long time.

The Labor Party did not refuse to participate [In the elections] because of weakness. It did so out of solidarity with the decision by the various political parties to boycott the elections. Leaving the field entirely in the hands of the NDP has been a laudable action because the other political parties now have the opportunity to say that they derive their support from the masses. We are convinced and reassured that this is something which will cause the party in power to lose much of its popularity.

[Question] Are you prepared for the local council elections?

[Answer] Mr Farghali: We are prepared to enter any election campaign in order not to allow the NDP to monopolize the political arena. However, we demand certain objective conditions for guaranteeing the impartiality of the elections. Nevertheless, we will also stick to the boycott decision.

We should mention the fact that our experience with political party activity in its present form is something which is rather recent. There are many areas in Egypt where the party has no presence. Furthermore, having a presence in a given area means that the party must have a headquarters there. Also, where are the informational media which provide me with an opportunity to become acquainted with people?

The fact that the party has not gained a presence in many localities means that we are not utilizing the party's capacities in these areas where we have no party personnel. The party is represented in Cairo, Alexandria, and Asyut. However, in the other governorates the party has no presence. The party in power, however, has a headquarters and a base everywhere.

Totally Changed Situation

[Question] What influence has the list system had on local council elections?

[Answer] Dr Yasin: The lists have given the executive authorities the right to appoint all of the members of these councils. The local councils have come to have appointed members rather than elected members. This is a dangerous principle which is totally changing the situation. Instead of the people electing their representatives who then call the executive apparatus to account, we now have a situation where the executive apparatus itself chooses those who are supposed to call it to account.

[Answer] Mr Farghali: Even if the opposition parties enter the elections, the NDP is still able to participate in the elections with complete lists of candidates. The other parties, however, do not have enough persons to enter the elections with complete lists of candidates, and this means that there will be no competition in such elections.

[Question] How can you act as a check on the executive apparatus if you boycott the local council elections?

[Answer] Our party is active among the masses and is studying their problems. The executive bodies receive all of the party's suggestions concerning various

issues, these matters are documented, and solutions are found for these issues. Participation and monitoring are both taking place here.

[Answer] Mr 'Abd-al-Wahhab: There is one important point to be made concerning participation by the party, which is unrepresented in the local councils, when it comes to serving the masses. It is the matter of our affinity. There is a great difference between representing the party and representing the nation.

Party activities and occasions are for the party alone. National activities and occasions, however, are something which is supposed to involve all the parties. But the Labor Party does not have the opportunity to participate in national festivities and celebrations.

When we request a permit to hold a congress, or when we ask for resources to set up camps **[for party activities]**, or when we ask to participate in national campaigns such as cleanliness campaigns, this is not allowed. However, the fact that all of us are Egyptians means that no discrimination should be allowed between one party and another.

The Supreme Youth Council now provides its services only to the young people associated with the NDP. The council, however, was established to serve all of the young people of Egypt. We have asked them to help us in many of our youth activities, but they have never responded.

Hot Summer Elections

[Question] Will the Labor Party in Asyut enter the People's Assembly elections next summer?

[Answer] Mr Farghali: The party's general national congress, which will be held next November, will decide this matter. However, we are prepared to do this. Our voter bases in Asyut are so strong that, if elections were held here in an atmosphere of democracy, I do not believe that anyone could defeat us. The Manfalut election district, for example, is a place where the Labor Party enjoys overwhelming popularity. But even today we still have no party headquarters there.

Maj Gen Zaki Badr, the governor of Asyut, has promised to arrange for the establishment of a headquarters for our party, and we are grateful to him for this promise. Nevertheless, this promise still has not been kept.

[Question] If everyone both in the government and in the opposition is endeavoring to work toward the creation of a better future for political activity **[in Egypt]**, why is this not being achieved?

[Answer] Mr 'Abd-al-Wahhab: Every party must win at least 8 percent of the votes cast **[in order to be represented in the People's Assembly]**. The NDP benefits from this because it guarantees that the NDP--even before the elections begin--will have 36 seats in the People's Assembly. Even if those

in the opposition receive this percentage of votes, what can they accomplish when the People's Assembly has a total membership of 448?

Answer Mr Farghall: The various parties must be provided with headquarters. The only headquarters which we have is the one in the city of Asyut. We pay the rent for this headquarters out of our own pockets. But in the various subdivisions of the governorate we do not have any party centers. The authorities have promised to provide us with party headquarters in Abu Tij, al-Ghanayim, and Manfalut. This situation is something which is a violation of the principle of justice and equality among the political parties. The NDP has headquarters and telephones in every village throughout the governorate.

End of interview with Labor Party Leaders

The NPUG: "Limited Presence"

We also held an interview with Salah Farraj, the secretary of the NPUG in Asyut, and his initial comments were the following: "The proportional list system is an effort to correct the mistakes of the individual election system. This system is something new in our political life, and it will, for some time, be a system which is unfamiliar to the masses until the benefits of this system are shown in practice. For this reason I support the proportional list system which is free of any restrictions which would affect the normal results of elections. Such a system provides us with representation which corresponds to the size of all of the political forces. It is in Egypt's interest that all political forces participate in the making of its political policy."

Question Does the NPUG have an opinion concerning the method of choosing the list of candidates which is different from the opinions expressed by the other parties?

Answer This is a matter which the national central apparatus of the party is giving its attention to, and we do not wish to have each party apparatus in each governorate have its own independent and individual opinion concerning this matter. But I feel that the most important prerequisites for a representative from our party should be that he believes in the party platform, he is committed to the opinions espoused by the party, he understands the history and culture of the people whom he represents, and he understands the changes in the world which are going on around him.

Question Has the boycott of the elections negatively affected the NPUG in Asyut?

Answer The opposition parties boycotted the Advisory Council and local council elections not in order to achieve some particular goal of their own. They also did not do this for purposes of political manipulation and in order to impose the will of the minority on the orientations followed by the majority, as the party in power claims. The objective was to attempt to

reform the election situation. The manner in which elections had been held for the last quarter of a century finally became transformed into something which did not enjoy the confidence of the masses.

Because of this, the opposition parties' boycott of the elections was an effort to look out for the public interest by challenging some of the practices which dominate the atmosphere in which the elections are held. Seen from this point of view, the boycott has not been something which has negatively affected the party at all.

Question Does the NPUG have any presence to speak of in the governorate of Asyut?

Answer The party has been subjected to a vicious campaign which has resulted in the fact that its presence in the governorate's political arena is limited. Nevertheless, our party's strength will continue to grow and it will make its presence felt in spite of everything.

Unfortunately our party suffers from the fact that it does not have party headquarters locations in important governorates such as the governorate of Asyut, where it has no headquarters even in the capital city of the governorate. This situation is true with the exception of the party headquarters in Sahil Salim, and this is because of a particular circumstance which existed among the people of that subdivision of the governorate. This circumstance was the fact that these people had previously engaged in organized political activity--before the parties were organized.

Question Will this limited political presence play any role in the upcoming People's Assembly elections?

Answer Unless the situation is corrected and elections are held in an atmosphere of integrity and honesty, our problems will become aggravated and our participation in the upcoming elections will be delayed. This is something which will harm the political life of our governorate.

In the recent past, after the 1976 elections, we had three representatives in the People's Assembly. Those representatives clearly played an influential role in the People's Assembly.

In order that these problems be solved, equality of opportunity must be guaranteed to all of the political parties. The reason for this is that the parties are not supposed to defend the interests of their members, but rather they are supposed to deal with the problems of our nation. If we have a normal and tranquil atmosphere, this is something which will lead to our party participating in the elections.

POLITICAL ATTITUDES OF ISLAMIC LEADERS DESCRIBED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 192, 15-21 Oct 83 pp 15, 16

/Article: "Important Political Developments in the Sudan: Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi Defined the Foundations of Moslem Society and Was Arrested with a Group of Al-Ansar and Members of His Family"

/Text/ The Sudanese authorities recently arrested the opposition political figure al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the leader of the al-Ansar group and former prime minister of the Sudan. The arrest involved 18 of al-Mahdi's aides, including Bakri Ahmad 'Adil, former governor of the Kordofan region and currently member of the People's Assembly of the Kordofan region, Dr 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, former minister of agriculture, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Nur, former minister of culture and information, and 'Abd-al-Rasul Mahdi, currently a member of the Kordofan region assembly. The arrest also included some leaders of the al-Ansar affairs bureau, Khalid Muhammad Ibrahim, chief of the bureau, and his assistant, 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad. This bureau is concerned with regulating the affairs of the al-Ansar group and was established after the national reconciliation which took place in the Sudan. The arrest also included some members of Imam al-Mahdi's family, Nasr-al-din al-Hadi al-Mahdi, the son of the former imam of the al-Ansar, and Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadi al-Mahdi, as well as 10 followers of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, including some Khartoum University students.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi delivered a speech on the occasion of the blessed Lesser Bayram in which he expressed his viewpoint on the most recent decrees issued by President Ja'far Numayri on the application of some laws derived from Islamic law.

The arrest of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his group has caused some turmoil in the political atmosphere, which had seemed to be quiet in the years following the national reconciliation in the Sudan that led to participation in the government by some opposition figures. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stayed outside the regime, but maintained a truce with it and did not involve himself in any activity that was supportive of or hostile to the regime. One can say that the most recent decrees President Numayri has declared, and those in particular that are related to the application of Islamic law, turned a large page in the life of the May revolution which al-Numayri led in 1969,

and permitted a stage to begin which will of necessity leave its marks on the political future of the Sudan. By the criteria of profit and loss for President Numayri's regime, it was a bold, significant move.

President Numayri's regime has tried earnestly, since the May 1969 revolution, to give concrete form to all the slogans that had been raised on the political stage since independence during the stages of democratic liberalism and the struggle among parties for power in the Sudan. In the charter of the revolution, he asserted his commitment to the democratic platform and the pursuit of a socialist line in the economic and social system. He then responded to the aspirations of the southerners, and ethnic minorities for regional sovereignty by establishing regional government, and then codified the currents of political union with Egypt that had been in existence, thereby establishing the platform of political and economic action and most recently the charter of integration between the two countries. The regime adopted a special form of democracy which was concentrated on the formula of alliance among forces and entities taking part in national construction and, from its first days, resolved the issue of the probable co-optation of the extreme left currents in the regime in the Sudan.

During the second term of his regime, President Numayri brought the good news that he was following the Islamic platform, then prepared for that in the program of his third term when he clearly expressed his commitment to proceed in this direction.

Observers agree that President Numayri's decision to follow the Islamic platform was a smart stroke and an important one as well. This measure prompted the Islamic tendencies in student areas (especially the Society of Moslem Brothers, who owe allegiance to Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, who shares in the power at its highest levels) to call what happened a "revolution;" they went along with the cavalcade, held symposia and sent cables, until it appeared to organizations in the Sudanese Socialist Union (the ruling political organization in the Sudan) that the rug would be pulled out from under their feet. Their reaction was very wary, bearing two statements issued by the organization, one stressing that these decrees were decrees of the political organization and were part of the contents of the comprehensive political program of President Numayri's third term, while the second bluntly warned that President Numayri's decrees on the application of Islamic law "were not the monopoly of a specific group and did not need tutelage from anyone."

The al-Khatmiyah group, under the leadership of its two heads, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and Ahmad al-Mirghani, expressed a frank opinion for the first time since al-Numayri came to power (if we exclude the positions on integration with Egypt), which was that it supported these decrees. In addition, Ahmad al-Mahdi's group of the al-Ansar supported and declared its blessings for the step which al-Numayri had taken.

The personnel in the Democratic Federation took two positions: one group merged with al-Numayri's regime and participated in government through its organizations and political institutions, while the other group, that is,

the remainder of Sharif al-Hindi's supporters abroad, still adhered to its position of opposition.

The Pillars of Moslem Society

Two groups concerned with this issue remained on the political stage, and people's attention continue to be fixed on them following the issuance of these decrees. These were al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his aides, and the Society of Moslem Brothers under the leadership of Sadiq 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who is 48, held the position of prime minister of the Sudan in 1966 and was arrested on the charge of high treason in 1969, when President Numayri came to power. He was then exiled to Egypt, in 1970, went back to the Sudan and was arrested again in February 1972, was released in April 1974, then was exiled after being accused of leading an armed attempt to overthrow the regime in July 1976. He stayed outside the Sudan until 1977, when he made a reconciliation with President Numayri.

However, he once again declared, in early 1982, after the student disturbances caused by the economic difficulties, that the national reconciliation process which he had entered into with al-Numayri was in abeyance because the regime had not committed itself to carrying out the changes that had been agreed upon. However, he stressed his determination to work inside the Sudan as long as there was the freedom to move and act.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi seized the occasion of the blessed Lesser Bayram to give a speech in which he expressed his support for the recent decrees al-Numayri had issued, on the one hand, while at the same time asserting his own opinion, which considers that there are circumstances which must be fulfilled if one is to round out the picture of Moslem society. In his speech, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that a group of Moslems had seen fit to set out a thorough declaration of the features of the Islamic system and to publish that in a document by which the people who wanted to establish an Islamic system would be guided, closing the door on people who raised Islamic slogans and applied Islamic slogans in part, failing to put matters in their proper places and indeed harming the call to Islam itself. He added, "This month the president of the Sudan issued Islamic legislation and shut down the bars; we welcome this measure and every measure that adds to the grandeur of God's inviolable premises and closes the door to corruption. We believe that organizing public life on the basis of Islam is a popular demand which we believe in and the masses of the Sudanese people believe in. Islamic penalties are matters by which the legislators intend to protect the Islamic system itself, will be effective only as pillars for protecting the Islamic system itself, and are just and wise components of the equations and conditions which Islam has set forth."

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi defined his position by stating that the establishment of an Islamic system demands that one turn toward justice, freedom of opinion, the guarantee of confidence and security, and the attainment of the principle of consultation. He said that justice in Islam was not a theoretical matter but that Islamic societies, following the first era, frequently relinquished

its application, to the point where some people forgot it and forgot their duties, and it even seemed to some orientalists and their adherents that Islam was the source of the tyranny, oppression and social injustice observed in the East. Al-Mahdi stated, "Justice in Islam is founded on carefully studied bases, and Moslems who are aware of the facts of their religion realize that full well. The rules of justice in Islam are first of all that God has been gracious to man and has banished coerciveness from him; therefore he is entitled to honor and freedom. Second, God has made it obligatory that the affairs of the devout be consultation among themselves, that consultation lead to justice, and that consultation makes acting in the name of others mandatory. Umar, with whom God be pleased, stated: 'Let anyone who sees crookedness in me straighten me out.' He thanked God for that. It was said that 'Umar became the lord of a people and found them in a state of rebellion. They made a complaint to him, based on a holy verse prohibiting espionage, and he released them. That is the principle of the sovereignty of the law. It is the principle that guarantees the independence of the judiciary, because the judiciary is the guardian of the law, and the guardian of the law must be safe and not fear to render judgment justly. Freedom, acting in the name of others, the sovereignty of the law and the independence of the judiciary are elements that guarantee political justice and proper conditions for consultation.

"Third, God has made it mandatory that wealth belong to all the people. Individuals should possess it, if they do possess it, through acts of the mind, art and the body. The government and individuals are asked to round it out and develop it to the farthest limits of growth and it should be an instrument to perform a social function in the hands of the government and individuals so that just balanced development may be realized which will satisfy people's needs at the minimum and prevent profligacy at the maximum.

"Fourth, almighty glorious God has made it mandatory that people be brothers and that their social relations be ones of affection, mercy and solidarity, in a manner which will make reality of the sayings of the prophet, on whom be prayers and peace, 'The faith of none of you will be perfected until you love your brothers as you love yourself.'

"Fifth, domestic justice should be founded on an international justice guaranteeing the freedom of the call to religion, preventing aggression and basing relations among people on foundations of affection."

In his speech, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reached the summary conclusion that the penalties of Islam are an integral part of its system, which is equitable in the distribution of political power and economic wealth and the establishment of social solidarity, in the context of the comprehensiveness of the road to Islam. He called for a commitment to the living national religious heritage which Imam Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahdi and his successors and the imams of the al-Ansar group behind him had bequeathed. One of the most prominent characteristics of this legacy was the style of calling for God through what was the best, and the application of its provisions, while observing the circumstances of time and place, on the basis of condemning the creation of factions and

political parties, realizing the freedoms of the people, and preserving their dignity and consultation among them, as he put it.

Leadership of the Al-Ansar

In his talk, al-Sadiq addressed himself to the subject of the dispute over the leadership of the al-Ansar and the question of whom the position of its imam should go to, which Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mahdi, who has good ties with President Numayri's regime, is fighting with him about. Al-Sadiq said, "Some people are sympathetic over the disputes that occur among the al-Ansar, but I would like to tell everyone that the mind of the al-Ansar, the heart of the al-Ansar and the body of the al-Ansar are sound, in spite of the dirt that is being stirred up here and there for reasons and motives which are totally alien to the al-Ansar."

Al-Sadiq concluded his statement by saying, "The state and the circumstances of the Sudan today, which people are observing, require that true national unity be established, a unity founded on frank principles which people believe in, which inspire their enthusiasm, which possess their conviction, which they can respond to truthfully and properly, and in whose being they can participate in reviving religion and reforming society."

Observers believe that this speech was the straw that broke the camel's back and led to the divorce not just between al-Sadiq and the regime he had made a reconciliation with but also between him and former allies, especially some Islamic tendencies. The government newspaper AL-AYYAM published a lengthy article dealing with the repercussions of the latest decrees, stating, in one paragraph, "The ball is now in the court of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his group, especially since he fastened himself to the cart of the Islamic revival in recent years, became one of its writers and speakers in international and regional podiums, and even domestically, and is exerting efforts to build his society on the Islamic platform. Therefore, he has to come out of his silence and seem to be responsive to the step that President Numayri has taken, or else his credibility vis-a-vis the Islamic awakening and Islamic action in general will be subject to review domestically and abroad. The challenge still exists, and its repercussions will of necessity appear in the domestic context, that is, within the group itself. On top of all that, a suspicion may loom over al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and others that he seeks personal glory, does not have any ideas, calling or program, and consequently has perhaps lost his reserve of popularity, especially since he concluded the contract of national reconciliation previously but did not complete its mission, or is smashing its symbols and emblems at a time when we find that some of his partners from the past have absorbed a fact, which is, 'If he does not realize most of it, he will not abandon all of it,' and have taken what was available and waited to harvest the virtues of patience and forbearance. However, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is still waiting for the 'absent' solution, which has perhaps come to seem very remote.'"

Changing the Name of the Republic of the Sudan

If that is the position of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the views of his opponents, what is the position of Sadiq 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid, Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah

al-Turabi's competitor for the leadership of the Moslem Brothers, whose society has preferred to distance itself from participation in power, contrary to what al-Turabi and his aides have done? AL-MAJALLAH contacted him and he commented by stating, "There are two different positions, one connected to a position of principle regarding participation in the government agencies until the other position has dealt with a matter that is more vital and has a greater effect on human life. The former in my opinion has become an obstacle and will soon be eliminated and disappear, in spite of the effects it will leave behind; therefore my position on it has been and still is a firm one of principle. The decrees that have been issued recently meet with our full satisfaction and acceptance, because they are a pioneering step which illuminates a road which for many years has continued to be shrouded in dense shadow, a step which has given this forbearing people hope and has illuminated a future that is more brilliant and confident under the aegis of God, after it had been squeezed empty by fear, hunger, and a shortage of money, lives and rewards. At the start of the road, the whole matter must be clear as the sun and established among all the people with truth, justice and balance. Otherwise, the yield of the Islamic experiment will be negative."

On the possibility that these decrees might give them room to take part in the government agencies, Sadiq 'Abd-al-Majid said, "The positive nature of the evaluation is the positive nature of the principles which I continued to believe in and to call for decades before their issuance now. I continued to derive all my positions from the loftiness and from the positive nature of these principles, and I do not consider that the issuance of these decrees means that they are fully packed bags whose capacity will meet the needs of everyone who offers the price, even if that price is participation; rather, they are a divine commitment to every Moslem who through his works seeks God's satisfaction, which therefore obligates him to obey or rebel against the guardian."

Sadiq 'Abd-al-Majid says that the Socialist Union is "a formulation which the circumstances of the course of the nature of governance in the country made mandatory at a specific stage, but it is no longer the optimum formulation for the country. We hope that the sequence of actual full application of Islam will continue, starting with the name of the country, which must bear the name 'Islamic' rather than 'Democratic' Republic of the Sudan, passing through the firm establishment of the notions of brotherhood, mercy, consultation, justice, freedom and equality in people's spirits and the actual condition of their lives, and ending with the formulation of the Moslem individual who is attached to God. The Socialist Union is an instrument which is valid in a country of socialists, but the 'Islamic' Union is truly the comprehensive formula for all Moslems, now that it is being reformulated in accordance with a sound Islamic vision far removed from the pitfalls of slogans and exploitation by opportunists, because its meaning must be embodied in its title. If Islam is the truth and the meaning, there is now no place, in the stage of transition, for socialism or democracy, in their prevalent sense, to be a title for the truth of Islam. At that point, the Moslems who are linked and united by belief, end and means, will meet in an Islamic manner far removed from all the negative features of the compromise structure which now exists in the Socialist Union."

On the circumstances and timing in which these decrees were declared, Sadiq 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid replied by stating, "Sudanese public opinion is a most sensitive and discerning instrument, and I do not see anything that can deprive it of this fact in its evaluation of and the weight it gives matters. However, what I feel is that the serious steps, beginning with the execution of the first stage of application of Islamic penalties, make us put much hope in the followup of the process of the application of all Islamic principles and provisions in the various aspects of life in the country. We may now have a clearer vision so that Islam can assume its path in the actual condition of the people, and perhaps the road is better prepared for following up on the determination that Islam state its opinion on various issues, and how many of those are there!"

On the obstacles that might stand in the way of the application of these laws, he said, "I do not see that there is anything standing in the way of the full application of Islamic law in the Sudan. If the situation is different from that, that is because of the traditional enemies of Islam one place or another."

He concluded his statement by saying, "The matter, as far as Islamic laws go, is no longer one of government or opposition but rather one of this whole people. Flexibility, comprehensiveness and breadth will guarantee that the obstacles to opinion will automatically dissolve, because Islam refuses to let the mind, thought or opinion remain imprisoned or hostage. These obstacles will dissolve in the context of a comprehensive Islam, and the whole way will be paved in one step, since there will be nothing but truth alone on that road at that time, and after the truth there is only waywardness."

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CSO: 4504/36

VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS RECEIVE FOREIGN FINANCING

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 83 p 6

/Article: "With African Development Bank Financing, Four Projects for the Sudanese Agricultural Bank in the Agriculture and Fishing Sectors Valued at \$8 Million"/

/Text/ The Sudanese Agricultural Bank has come to play an important role in the light of the new economic policy in the country, which has the goal of limiting imports and relying on innate resources. Thus the Agricultural Bank's role has been restricted to encouraging small producers who are farmers, fishermen and shepherds and adopting projects that are of use to them.

For this reason, the Sudanese Agricultural Bank is submitting an application to the African Development Bank to finance a group of projects. Agreement has been given to the financing of four specific projects in the agriculture and fishing sectors. The overall size of the agreement concluded with the African Development Bank is about US \$8.5 million, in the form of a loan to the Agricultural Bank, which will play its part by dispensing money to these small projects, which are:

1. The project for fishermen in Lake al-Nubah, the White Nile and the Blue Nile, costing 300,000 Sudanese pounds of the African Development Bank loan, the dollar amount of which is equivalent to 188,000 Sudanese pounds. About 100 fishermen will benefit from this project.
2. The project for private pump owners, costing 5.28 million Sudanese pounds, of which the African Development Bank will pay the equivalent of 5,106,000 Sudanese pounds in dollars. Four thousand farmers working on an area of 40,000 feddans will benefit from this project.
3. The project on tobacco farms in Juba, covering an area of 9,000 feddans and costing 1.1 million Sudanese pounds.

The loan includes payment of part of the cost, estimated at the equivalent of 570,000 pounds, in dollars. Three thousand farmers will benefit from this project.

4. The project on tobacco farmers in Zalinji, covering an area of 4,500 feddans, with a total cost of 1,767,000 Sudanese pounds. Of this cost, the Development Bank loan will finance the equivalent of 1,012,000 pounds, and 900 farmers will benefit from this project.

Thus the African Development Bank loan is to cover about 80 percent of the total cost of these projects, which is estimated at about 8,447,000 Sudanese pounds.

An Economic Study on Fish Production

The first project, bearing on fishermen, has received attention from the Sudanese Agricultural Bank, which prepared an integrated study on the economics of fish production in Lake al-Nubah and the possibility for bank participation in this area.

Bank specialists have made a field survey of the Lake al-Nubah area in the northern Sudan and southern Egypt, through which they were able to ascertain the views of fishing boat owners and fishermen and learn about the problems facing them. This study suggested that it was necessary to supply these fishermen with modern wooden fishing boats supplied with engines, nets and fishing equipment. The Agricultural Bank will finance the process of buying these boats and the fishing equipment abroad, in accordance with the African Development Bank loan, and these boats will be distributed to the fishermen by a cooperative society in whose membership they will be included, to be called the Halaf Daghim Cooperative Society. The Sudanese Agricultural Bank will establish a branch for itself in the town of Wadi Halfa, on the shores of this lake, to supervise this project, which in the future will also include the construction of a 10-ton refrigerator and freezer in Wadi Halfa, the construction of a cooler to preserve the frozen fish with a capacity of 50,000 tons of fish, the construction of a tin and wood canopy, the provision of fish cutting and dressing equipment, the provision of 10 large steamers with a capacity of 5 deadweight tons each supplied with refrigeration equipment, and the construction of a warehouse to preserve fish in the city of Khartoum with a capacity of 30,000 tons of fish shipped to Khartoum from Lake al-Nubah for consumption by the inhabitants of the Sudanese capital.

Modern Fishing Methods

This project is basically aimed at replacing traditional fishing patterns with modern fishing methods. The deterioration of the old wooden boats the fishermen are using has been observed, along with the difficulty and slowness in using them in a production process which is not remunerative. The first stage of the project will be carried out in 3 years. The Agricultural Bank will finance the import of 50 fishing boats the first year and 25 in each of the second and third years.

The Sudanese Agricultural Bank will try to find foreign financing for the second stage of the project, which is aimed at providing financing for the freezer and coolers in Wadi Halfa and Khartoum, at a cost of about 760,000 pounds.

Tremendous Fish Resources

Feasibility studies justify the establishment of this sort of project, and other productive projects, in the Lake al-Nubah area, which is rich in fish resources and can yield an annual production of 4,200 tons, calculating the number of production days at 250 a year and estimating the productivity of the fishing in the lake at 17 tons a day. Current production in the case of the government fishing organization and the private sector is calculated at less than 1,000 tons a year.

The establishment of the project to finance the fishermen in this area will lead to an estimated increase in production in the lake of about 2,688 tons in the first year, which will rise to 3,360 tons the second year, then reach 4,022 tons the third year of the project.

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GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION TO PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY REVIEWED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 191, 8-14 Oct 83 p 48

/Article: "Who Is Behind the Decree Freezing Private Industrial Concessions in the Sudan?"/

/Text/ The council of the Sudanese Federation of Industries held an exceptional meeting before the blessed Lesser Bayram holiday in the presence of all its members, who come to about 337, to discuss the decree of the minister of state for finance and the economy cancelling the concessions granted for imported raw materials used in various local industries.

A source in the federation pointed out that the call for the meeting was made after it became apparent that the abrogation of the exemptions from customs duties and other levies on raw materials used in the industry would lead to a terrible increase in the prices of products manufactured locally. For example, he pointed out that the price of a piece of soap which is currently sold for 25 piasters would come to about 42 piasters.

The source added that the decree of the minister of state for finance, by which he froze the industrial concessions on imported industrial ingredients and raw materials supplementary to industry, was basically issued in an attempt to meet the financial deficit in the general government budget, which is in excess of 200 million pounds, as a result of a previous decree suspending the importation of about 35 luxury goods such as various canned goods, electric appliances and so forth, in the context of the program of economic and financial concentration and the new credit policy which was announced last month. In this meeting, Mr Fath-al-Rahman al-Bashir, chairman of the federation, presented the efforts made with officials regarding the minister of state's decree eliminating the concessions granted to industry on the basis of a previous law, and pointed out that private sector plants contributed 150 million pounds to the public treasury last year in the form of production levies, although they were operating at just 25 percent of their productive capacity. He stated that if the private plants were able to work at their maximum capacity, the revenues from production levies to the government's benefit would come to 600 million pounds.

It is worth mentioning that the minister of state's decree freezing the industrial concessions for the private sector factories excludes materials

used in the production of sugar, pharmaceuticals, textiles and materials imported by the Chevron International Oil Company.

A number of businessmen spoke at this meeting. Some launched an attack on the International Monetary Fund and accused it of being behind the policy of crushing industry and development in the developing countries, as a basic goal for linking these countries to the wheel of its well known policies, while others called for the adoption of a decisive stand regarding these decrees and stated that the government's decrees had ceased to take adequate consideration of the industrial sector, in spite of its importance, because industrialists had accustomed officials to believe that they would accept any decree without the least challenge or opposition.

The discussion at the meeting was characterized by passion and frank talk. Through it, it became apparent that the industrialists in the private sector complain that a clear philosophy of economic development in the country is lacking, that this situation has kept foreign investments from working in the Sudan, and that the investment law is violated with utmost ease by the ministerial decrees, which do not view the consequences and dimensions of things.

11887

CSO: 4504/36

NEW MOVES DETAILED TO IMPROVE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 83 p 5

/Article: "Attempts To Revive the Textile Industry and Export Sudanese Spinning to Europe"/

/Text/ The Sudan is witnessing brisk activity to revive and increase the productive capability of domestic industries, especially in the cotton spinning and textile sector. Import republican decrees were issued in the month of August to support this industry. Among the most important of these decrees were one allocating 50 percent of raw Sudanese cotton for sale to Textile industries at prices below the price at which they are exported outside the country, and one remedying the financial problems arising from the accumulation of debts in the textile factories, by scheduling these debts to banks and permitting a subsidiary company to enter into these factories at a proportion not to exceed 25 percent, with the debts of each factory to be handled separately. In general, however, the Sudanese banks will start granting these factories bank facilities and turning the factories into government companies. This will accompany other administrative measures that have been adopted to turn the government textile factories into companies. The al-Hasahisa textile plant has actually been recorded in the company register, and the Textile Organization, the government organization which had been supervising six government plants, has been registered as a holding company called the General Spinning Company Limited.

Other measures related to the formation of boards of directors of textile companies (formerly government companies) have also been discussed, and the process of transferring the directors of these factories and choosing new directors in some other companies is now underway. It has been decided to grant freedom of administration to all these factories to adopt independent decisions without referring to higher bodies such as the abrogated parent company or the Ministry of Industry. Freedom of decisionmaking is needed in each factory in order to break this industry's enslavement to the bonds of red tape and bureaucracy which are obstructing their growth and to avoid losses which might arise from slowness in the process of adopting sound decisions. Conversely, the management of each sector will have a great responsibility of making the operation a success and bringing it to higher productive capacities in the light of present circumstances. The measure of

success will be the profit and loss, and each factory will meet its own expenses. The subsidization policy which the Sudanese government has followed was suspended when the general budget went into effect last July. Therefore, each factory must work to reduce its production costs while increasing production volumes to achieve a reasonable profit margin.

Exporting Spinning

In this regard, a review will constantly be made of company and factory management to ascertain its degree of effectiveness and proper exploitation. A delegation of textile industry officials returned to the country recently after a tour of Switzerland, West Germany, Britain and Austria to investigate the export of Sudanese cotton spinning to these countries and importers' quality specification requirements. This delegation encountered a readiness and desire to buy Sudanese production. However, plant production was suspended recently as a result of the cutoff of their electricity owing to the severe drop in hydroelectric power generated because the intake of the turbines of the al-Damazine Reservoir on the Blue Nile was blocked with thick silt, resulting in intensified, ongoing cleaning activities to ward off the threat that the Blue Nile would flood the generating turbines with silt, shrubs and trees. As a result, some plants resorted to installing giant imported diesel generators. One should bear in mind that the installation process takes a long time, and the generating machinery requires maintenance. In actuality, this situation has resulted in the postponement of the execution of the plan to reform the textile industry, to the point where some plants, such as the al-Hasahisa textile mill, have been compelled to have workers take their annual vacations on a compulsory basis, in hopes of calling them back to work by Sudanese radio when the electric current is restored.

The Problems of Industry

Because of the cutoff of electricity, the factories have lost large amounts of production capacity. The problem of the constant cutoff of electricity supplies is the very one the abovementioned study referred to, in addition to shortage of the fuel oil needed to operate the reserve generators in the plants. Because electricity was not hooked up, the start of production in the Port Sudar spinning mill was delayed; the resolution of this problem is the first requirement if the textile industry is to flourish. Not all plants lie within the national electricity grid, but the solution demands that some of them be brought into it, such as the Kusti mill, in order to reduce the production costs resulting from the severe rise in gasoline prices and the costs of transporting it to run the plant's own generator. There also is a recommendation to supply the al-Sadaqah textile mill (in al-Hasahisa) with an electric transformer to overcome the problem of irregularity in the electric current and the high loss of production arising from that, especially in the spinning stage, and the high costs of maintenance and repair.

The study points to the need to set up gasoline depots in factory areas that are far away from the national grid, such as Kadaqli and Manqala.

In addition to the problem of the cutoff of electricity, there are other problems related to the shortage of spare parts, chemicals, and other auxiliary materials. A feasibility study was carried out on these under the supervision of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, with the objective of erecting a central workshop to manufacture spare parts. In addition, the establishment of a center to train the workers in the textile industries and a quality control center, on which the Industrial Development Organization has also prepared feasibility studies, will help reduce the shortage in the trained labor required for these plants as a result of circumstances of continuous emigration.

Other Policies

In the face of unequal competition between foreign and local textile, knitwear and readymade clothing producers, the government has embraced a long-range policy to prevent the smuggling of cloth into the country by tightening up surveillance and penalties on smugglers. One result of the drop in prices of raw Sudanese cotton sold to local textile factories will be the grant of an opportunity to Sudanese cotton cloth to compete with imported equivalents through its lower price, since the former will be cheaper, and the latter more expensive, by bearing high customs duties whose purpose is to protect domestic output.

At present there are no less than 10 government and 10 private sector textile mills in the Sudan, alongside 47 plants that are starting construction and production and 46 plants to produce women's clothing, veils and scarves. According to the industrial reform plan, these factories must reach their maximum capacity of raw and ready-made cloth, which is estimated at 344.5 million meters a year.

11887

CSO: 4504/36

BRIEFS

ANSAR LEADER, AIDES ARRESTED--The recent arrest of Sadiq al Mahdi, the former Sudanese prime minister, came at a time when the Numeiri regime had announced the release of 13,000 prisoners from Sudanese prisons. Sadiq al Mahdi was arrested after he had delivered a speech about government practices and policies, which he said were based on "misguidance" and "false promises." In the speech he criticised Numeiri's attempts to portray himself as "a pious, God-fearing and virtuous ruler. He said that all the measures taken by Numeiri were for "personal publicity, and the Sudanese people would not benedit from them." Sadiq al Mahdi said that "the Sudanese people were suffering, and the pouring of cans of alcoholic beverages into the waters of the Nile would not wipe out their misery." A number of Sadiq al Mahdi's political aides were arrested with him; also detained were Umar Nur ad Daim, former agriculture minister, Abdur Rehman an Nur, a Supreme Court judge; Ahmad Husayn Nasr ad Din al Hadi; Ali Jadallah Mubarak Abdullah; and Mahdi Muhammad Ahmad. The Islamic Council in London has criticised the arrests. [Text] [East Burnham ARABIA THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 27, Nov 83 p 33]

CSO: 4500/16

POLITICAL LEADER DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, ARAB ISSUES

Tunis AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 22 Sep 83 pp 1-3

[Interview with Ahmed Mestiri, Secretary General of the Movement of Socialist Democrats: "In an Exclusive Interview Ahmed Mestiri Tells AL-MUSTAQBAL, 'Our Movement Is Pursuing the Course It Chose To Realize Its Objectives' "]

[Text] "Economic and political reality in Tunisia does not inspire optimism."

"What is required is that the Greater Arab Maghreb become basically the Maghreb of the people and not merely the Maghreb of the rulers."

"Building an Arab society that is politically and economically democratic is the safest way to liberation."

This was the first time for Ahmed Mestiri, the secretary general of the Movement of Socialist Democrats [MDS] to grant an interview to our newspaper, AL-MUSTAQBAL.

That fact in itself makes the interview assume the proportions of an event as far as our movement and its fighters in all areas and regions are concerned. As we begin a new political year the interview assumes the proportions of an event with regard to political life in general.

Therefore it was not strange for the secretary general to deal with all existing national and pan-Arab issues in this candid and comprehensive interview. He presented the movement's position on those issues clearly. These issues include what is being said about the movement itself and the suspicions and doubts some people are trying to create around it.

[Question] The Arab world is going through a violent crisis today. Interpreters and observers differ in their analysis of the reasons for that crisis and the extent of its danger. What do you think are the reasons for that crisis and how do you think can it be remedied?

[Answer] The present Arab situation does not invite [feelings of] optimism as far as the near future is concerned. Because Arabs lack a collective will and because the independence of their will is limited, the Arabs are controlled by events. They do not influence events even though these events interest them and have a direct effect on their present and their future.

How do we explain this Arab weakness? How do we explain the inability of the Arab nation to confront the challenges it is facing despite the qualifications and the human and material resources it has? How do we explain what has happened and is happening to the Palestinian people? How do we explain what has happened and what is happening in Lebanon? How do we explain Sabra and Shatila?

Some people attribute this weakness to backwardness. Actually backwardness is one of the important reasons for our weakness. But backwardness here is not only the backwardness of the people, it is also the backwardness of the rulers in particular.

Other people attribute Arab weakness to the effects of worldwide imperialism and to all the forms of neocolonialism. They attribute it to the practices of the superpowers in many parts of the Arab homeland. These superpowers have implicitly agreed among themselves to divide our Arab homeland into spheres of influence that would be subordinate to them. This would paralyze and shackle Arab will.

This reason too is correct, but we must also realize that it is one of our own making. If you will, it is a result of our weakness.

Foreign powers infiltrate [our countries] and tighten their control [over them] by taking advantage of their obvious vulnerabilities, particularly the fear rulers have of the people's wrath. Such wrath is a result of social tension and the deterioration of economic and political conditions.

As far as the Arab nation is concerned--and as far as every country is concerned--the road to liberation is one that must go through national action to build a just, peaceful and cohesive society. [National action must include efforts] to build a national economy with sound choices; the national economy must be free from subordination, and it must depend on proper action.

It is also inevitable that a strong political system be established by means of both political and economic democracy.

Political democracy is definitely necessary. It guarantees human rights and public liberties, and it is based on elected and salutary constitutional institutions.

Building an Arab society that is politically and economically democratic is the safest way of liberation in the long term. But in the short term, it is essential that rulers become convinced of two facts to preclude the further deterioration of our conditions:

1. Rulers' reliance on the support of their people is the safest course for them and for their regimes; it is the best guarantee for their nation's interests in the short term.

2. Rulers' views on dealing with the superpowers must be changed. They must be convinced that international relations are built basically on mutual interests and on a balance of powers.

The party that has a greater need for the other is the weaker party. Arab rulers

are to make those they address feel that they can do without them when necessary. They must also make them feel--and this is important as I said earlier--that their presence in power is based on the support they have from their people and not on foreign support.

Mr. Habib Bourguiba:

Question: At this time the Arab Maghreb is experiencing a noticeable development that has manifested itself in a series of successive meetings and visits by ministers. What is your assessment of that development?

Answer: Before anything else I would like to emphasize that our movement believes in the Greater Arab Maghreb and its unity. Our party considers the unity of the Greater Arab Maghreb a step toward universal Arab unity.

The faith we have in the principle of unity makes us welcome the rapprochement that is occurring between the regimes of the Maghreb, if one of the consequences of that rapprochement will be a solution to existing problems. One of the most important of these problems is that of the Western Sahara. We would also welcome this rapprochement if one of its consequences will be action that would make the appropriate circumstances available for forging the economic integration of all the Maghreb states, of the Maghreb and generating a network of common interests that would by itself protect the course of unity from a setback it may suffer because of unilateralism. All this must be accompanied by an effort to foster awareness among the public in the Maghreb so they could develop enthusiasm for this great project for the future and play an actively democratic part in planning about that future through popular organizations that represent them directly. Thus the Great Arab Maghreb would not be the Maghreb of rulers only; it would rather become in a basic way the Maghreb of the people.

Question: Let us go back to Tunisia. How would you assess the existing situation economically and socially?

Answer: I believe that circumstances in Tunisia are suitable to the development of a healthy society. Our people are qualified to play a leadership role in this regard in the Arab scene. They are qualified to play that role because of their numerous demographic makeup, because the percentage of the educated among our people is high, because our people have firmly established traditions of management and good government, and because the social classes in our society are not disparate--this was before the appearance of the parasitic class of civil servants in the country.

But if these are the facts about our people, then our official political and economic reality does not respond to those facts nor does it even come close to doing so.

Question: Is political democracy?

Answer: When the present government was formed, we were among those who saw promising signs of good things to come. The organization of this government was accompanied by high-level statements and a few positive initiatives that were taken toward political liberalization. The door was opened to the establishment of political parties.

In this regard it is pointless to enumerate the frustrations and the setbacks that were encountered. We've noticed, as others have, that stagnation has set in the course of democracy and has replaced the activism which had emerged 2 years ago. We were among the first to welcome and support that activism. How else do we explain the resumption of political trials and the persecution of fighters and leaders of the Islamic Tendency Movement? How else do we explain the fact that the fighters and leaders of that movement are languishing in prison because of their ideas and their political activities? How do we explain the scandal of forgeries in the elections? How do we explain the government breaking its promise, a promise it had made in a memorable and highly visible way to establish political pluralism? Even the Communist Party which was fortunate enough to get a legal permit is actually largely denied the exercise of any activity. Ordinary political activity is now, as it was before, restricted to one party and to the organizations that rotate in its orbit.

Officially in government may have forgotten that ultimately those who benefit politically from that setback are all those people who do not believe in the use of public political action and who rely on secrecy and on violence.

On the political and social plane, there are a few basic points that are of concern to us in the Movement of Socialist Democrats [MDS].

1. There is first of all the economic crisis that the country is going through. Some people are inclined to regard the world's economic crisis as the principal if not the only reason for that crisis.

What matters in our view is that the Tunisian economy continues to be a vulnerable economy. It will continue to be exposed to the upsets, dangers and repercussions of the world crisis as long as the deep-seated problems it is suffering from exist and are not dealt with in a radical and serious fashion. [The Tunisian economy will continue to be vulnerable] as long as a development plan is not set forth in which all groups of a national alliance would take part. These groups would define a scale of priorities that favors financing production [projects over others. Government is to be the first to honor these priorities which are not to be changed according to other people's whims and fancies. Urban improvement efforts and facelifting operations for public squares are tasks that should wait for other times when financing resources become available after the most urgent needs for production projects are met.

The real reasons for the crisis are domestic reasons.

1. There is first of all a factor of poor choices and indecisiveness.

2. Second, there is mismanagement which created deficits in most public organizations.

3. Third, there is the social climate. In that regard, the recent signing of national agreements, an action that we view as positive, did not do away with all the economic tension in numerous sectors.

4. The second point that is of concern to us is the problem of unemployment and emigration. This government and its predecessors have relied largely on

emigration to get rid of the problem of unemployment. This emigration policy went through two stages.

1. The first stage was that in which the host countries took our emigrants without restrictions. At that time our government placed no restrictions on emigration. It did not have any policy to regulate emigration and determine the duration of an emigrant's stay abroad. No thought was given to how those citizens were to be accommodated upon their return to their country either voluntarily or as a result of the host country's decision.

2. The second stage is the present stage in which host countries have found that their interests required the placement of restrictions on immigration. In view of that situation, what is the policy of a government whose duty it is to see to it that those citizens are properly and honorably received?

We are also concerned about the injustice our citizens encounter in some European countries, and we are concerned about the fluctuations which their children experience and the dangers that threaten their strength of character.

The problem of emigration is only one aspect of the unemployment problem from which many people suffer. Most of those people are young people.

The third point that is of concern to us--and this is a new point and a serious one--is a tendency to weaken the public sector so as to benefit the private sector, as is the case in the field of transportation, for example.

It is a dangerous tendency because there are no indications, first, that there are structural reasons requiring the elimination of the public sector. If public sector organizations--or some of them--are incompetent, then an effort must be made before anything else is done to do away with the mismanagement which constitutes a principal reason for that incompetence. Also some measure of incompetence has to be accepted in some sectors, such as the transportation sector, which is one of the public services sectors, like health and education. The state must provide such services for the people.

It was generally noticed that the public sector plays a principal role in the economy of developing countries. This fact is accepted by contemporary economists of all persuasions.

The private sector has an important, essential and an undeniable role which it must play, but it must do so outside the basic services sectors or the vital sectors that play a leadership role in the economy of the country.

Question: The Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS) has been the target of constant repression and assaults that have come from numerous directions these weeks. How do you explain that? Where does the movement stand now, and what will be its activities in the future?

Answer: Our movement, as everyone knows, does in fact exist. It has central, regional and local organizations despite the fact that it does not have a legal permit. We have emphasized numerous times that the real permit is that which is granted by the people to their broad masses and their various groups. We believe

that the Tunisian people have given us their confidence and that they've expressed that confidence on numerous occasions. The most notable of those occasions of course was that of the election which was held on the 1st of November 1981. This is a fact that is also acknowledged by everyone. Our movement is an open, democratic movement that is not controlled by a narrow bureaucratic organization. Our movement does not follow clandestine methods; it carries out its activities in public, and it assumes its responsibility toward the people and toward history.

And how would it not do that when it's a movement that grew out of the ranks of the people? Our movement is fighting to give material form to the people's ambitions for democracy and socialism. Our movement is fighting to strengthen the authentic cultural identity of the people, which is Arab and Islamic.

Our movement is a vital being that moves, changes and grows. Therefore, there is nothing strange about the fact that our movement, like other parties and movements, is occasionally afflicted with some negative phenomena. There is also nothing strange about the fact that as a movement that practices democracy and makes democratic choices, it is a movement wherein differences and even conflicts exist. What matters to us is that all the issues within the movement's organizations are settled in a fully democratic fashion. In these cases, if it becomes evident to someone that his opinion is different from that of the group, all he has to do is accept the position of the majority after discussion and analysis within the legal organizations of the movement. If he cannot accept the opinion of the majority, he may leave the movement. We do not force anyone to stay in the movement; nor do we arbitrarily remove anyone from the movement.

Because of its presence on the scene and because of its importance, our movement gives many people in the ruling regime and outside the regime cause for worry. Therefore, it is always subject to campaigns that assail it and cast doubts on it. These campaigns do not worry us because they affirm that our movement holds a distinguished position on the national and Arab scene. As nationalists, however, we are fighting to establish in our country a comprehensive and a deep-seated democracy that does not confine itself to the establishment of democracy in organizations only, but tries to establish democracy in daily conduct and in all levels of business. Our national loyalty and our profound faith in the democratic system make us regret very much the methods that were used in these campaigns and in these attacks.

These methods revealed a serious decline in the [style of] political dialogue and turned it into abuse and vilification.

This is a far cry from democratic discussion and proper dialogue for whose establishment we will not stop fighting.

Raising the standard of debate is in our opinion a basic part of the effort to support democracy and strengthen its foundations.

Many citizens who sympathize with us, and even fighters, were surprised by the fact that we did not respond to the comments and to some of the charges that were made against us in some newspapers. We preferred to remain silent, not out of weakness or fear or because we lacked proof [to defend ourselves]. We preferred

to stay silent for one reason: we insist on observing a rule of action that we adopted since this movement was established. That rule is to avoid futile debate with anyone and to avoid wasting our efforts in inconsequential, marginal battles that could distract us from the principal action we are carrying out to achieve our objectives.

Do we need to respond to those who accuse us of deviating from the Arab-Islamic course or of seeking positions?

Our activities are continuous and are growing.

On the 3rd of September our movement convened a meeting for the membership who came from all the parts of the country to participate. At that meeting we dealt with all these subjects candidly and unequivocally. We evaluated the domestic and foreign conditions of the country as we waited for the [session of] the National Assembly which will convene next October. The assembly will determine the place and date of the first conference for the movement, and it will make the decisions that are necessary for preparations for that conference. In the meantime, members of the Political Bureau are visiting the various regions to contact the regional and local members of the movement and to meet with its fighters.

Thus, despite difficulties and obstacles our movement is pursuing the course it chose to achieve its objectives. The course our movement has chosen is that of political struggle whose aim is to make the public aware of what is going on and to organize the masses so they can determine their destiny.

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550: 4304 75

BRIEFS

OFFSHORE BANK ASSETS INCREASE--BAHRAIN, Oct. 29 (Reuter): Assets of offshore banks in Bahrain rose to 56.79 billion dollars in August, a rise of 1.25 billion dollars from July's 17-month low, figures from the Bahrain Monetary Agency show. Assets of the banks peaked in August last year at 61.14 billion dollars. The dollar's share of the assets rose to 41.78 billion dollars in August from 40.81 billion, while assets in local currencies increased slightly to 10.51 billion dollars from 10.42 billion. On the liabilities side, the share of the US currency rose to 38.09 billion dollars in August from 36.85 billion, while that of local currencies slipped to 14.47 billion dollars from 14.67 billion. The figures showed a modest rise in assets held with other banks. Interbank assets with banks outside Bahrain rose to 27.34 billion dollars in August from 26.76 billion, while liabilities to banks outside Bahrain rose to 28.45 billion from 28.20 billion. A geographical breakdown showed assets held in Arab countries rose to 27.39 billion dollars in August from 26.11 billion in July, while those held in Europe slipped to 14.23 billion dollars from 14.38 billion. Assets held in North America rose to 1.83 billion dollars from 1.78 billion a month earlier. On the liabilities side, North America accounted for 810 million dollars, down by more than half on the 1.71 billion in July. Arab countries accounted for 38.56 billion dollars in August against 37.56 billion in July. Foreign currency purchases rose to 19.41 billion dollars in August from 17.61 billion a month earlier. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Oct 83 p 14]

CSO: 4400/63

BAGHDAD AZERI LAUDS RESISTANCE AGAINST IRAN

GFL50500 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the fascistic mullahs' regime in Iran is completely responsible for the crimes committed in that country as well as for the disasters befallen Iran and its peoples. Prior to the commencement of the attack on Kurdistan, the people of Iraq gave a lot of advice to the war-mongering mullahs in Iran. We warned them that because of their military offensives they would be shouldering great responsibility. We also told them on several occasions that taking into consideration the immunity of the land of Iraq, their offensive actions would serve no end at all.

Regrettably, the impostor rulers in Tehran and Qom failed to hear our advice. Nor do they seem to wish to do so now. The rulers seem to be convinced that through their ferocious attacks they will redeem their major losses. They also seem to believe that through such plots they will succeed in calming down the peoples of Iran temporarily in order to gain time for new conspiracies. As it has always been, however, their latest dark illusions have also served no end at all. The tyrannical attack launched by the supporters of Khomeyni began in the Panjwin region. It was confronted by the heroic armed forces of Iraq. The latter made historic sacrifices in order to defend the mountains and lands of Iraq's northern sector and push the attackers away from the region. New victories were added to the previous ones. The heroism displayed was a great and unforgettable lesson for the rulers in Tehran.

The illiterate rulers in Tehran must understand once and for all that the heroic citizens of Iraq have not hesitated to shed their blood for safeguarding their homeland's territorial integrity and future prosperity. Nor will they hesitate to do so in the future. This is due to the everlasting flame of the love the heroes of Iraq have for their homeland. The hearts which beat with the strength of the love for the homeland belong to the people of Iraq. It is the self-sacrificing people of Iraq who are defending the territory of their homeland with the love they cherish for it. It is the people of Iraq who are shedding blood to safeguard their honor and dignity.

The deaf rulers in Jamaran and Qom, who have resorted to numerous crimes during the past 3 years in occupying the land of Iraq, must understand well that the continuation of their savage attacks will only serve to draw their tragic end closer.

No matter how hard these harmful parasites try, they will not be able to destroy the determination and will of the people and army of Iraq. Our determination and will have deep roots in this land.

CSO: 4400/67

BAGHDAD AZERI ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IRANIAN MULLAHS

GF211331 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, It has become common knowledge that the 'Ali Khamene'i brothers (gardaslar) and the Hashemi-Rafsanjani brothers (gardaslar) are quarrelling with each other and (?stepping) on each other's shadow. The dispute between clergyman Khamene'i and Mullah Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who are among the leading officials of the Khomeyni regime in Iran, is gradually strengthening. They are even competing in plundering the treasury of the state. 'Ali Khamene'i pretends that Hashemi-Rafsanjani is [word indistinct] but the latter, who is Khomeyni's right eye and the hereditary slave (Golam-e Hanezad) of the court of Jamaran, does not even see 'Ali Khamene'i at all.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani puts his nose in every affair 'Ali Khamene'i moves to tackle. And, through his cunning moves he places part of the responsibility of the thousands of disasters they have brought upon the Iranians on the shoulders of Khamene'i. Thus, he exonerates both himself and his patron, Mullah Khomeyni. No matter where Khamene'i puts his foot down, Hashemi-Rafsanjani follows him and moves in line with him. As for Khamene'i, he secretly watches the shadow of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and wishes to move him away.

Drawing courage from the remarks of his patron, Khomeyni, blessings be upon him, Hashemi-Rafsanjani attaches no importance to the words spoken by 'Ali Khamene'i. Likewise, Mullah Khamene'i also ignores the remarks of Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In short, a day will come when the said mullahs, for the sake of rank and position, will strike not at each other's shadow, but at each other's (?heart) and either one or both of them will die. We believe that the differences between 'Ali Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani will not lead to the death of any one of them. This time both will be killed by the hands of the heroic Iranian peoples and dumped into history's garbage pit together with their colleagues. Thus, the poor Iranians will be rid of their inauspicious and dirty faces, evil and blood-dripping crimes, and wickedness and cruelty. That day is not too far away.

CSC: 4460/67

NEW PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR TANKS, ARMORED CARS

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct 83 p 3

[Article by Re'uven Padhatzur, HA'ARETZ correspondent: "Weapons Development Authority Recently Displayed New Protective Measures for Tanks and Armored Vehicles"]

[Text] Two new protective measures were presented yesterday for the first time by the Weapons Development Authority. One was intended to defend tanks and the other, armored personnel carriers.

The push to develop the new protective measures came in the wake of lessons learned in the Yom Kipur War. In that war the anti-tank weapons threat to the IDF armored forces was revealed in all its seriousness. The IDF was surprised both by the quantity of anti-tank weapons and their effectiveness.

In order to respond to the anti-tank weapons threat, a new type of special protective measure was developed called "active defense." Each tank model is supplied with a special defensive kit, attached to the tank's armor like a kind of suit. The weight of the tank defensive kit is relatively small (less than a ton), and covers a relatively large area of the tank (about 10 square meters). The operational implementation of this kind of solution by the IDF is the world's first. The defensive kit has proven its effectiveness decisively in the battles of the "Peace for Galilee" campaign, and cases were reported where lives were saved because of it.

A sophisticated solution has also been found for the protection of the APC's. Because of the fact that an APC is a light armored vehicle, it can be loaded with only limited additional weight. Were standard protective measures to be used, the additional weight would not allow it to move. The solution found is based on an original Israeli idea developed in the Weapons Development Authority. It is an exclusive idea and, as far as is known, is not to be found anywhere else in the world. In the case of the APC also, an area of about 10 square meters is covered and the additional weight is less than half a ton. The Weapons Development Authority is also set to export the new protective kits.

9794

CSG: 4423/13

BRIEFS

WORLD'S HIGHEST TAXATION RATE--The rate of taxation in Israel is the highest in the western world--57 percent of gross national product. This rate includes government taxes, social security and local authority taxes. Despite the rate, it covers only 55 percent of the national budget. Israel's high tax rate weighs heavily on all sectors of the population, not just the well-to-do. These data were reported yesterday at a press conference held in Jerusalem by the Center for Social Science Research headed by Dr Israpel Katz. It turns out that the lowest tenth of the population is forced to pay direct and indirect taxes at a rate of 32 percent of income. The next tenth pays 36 percent and the upper tenth, 44 percent. The research presented yesterday was conducted by Dr Joseph Gabay and Prof Etan Shishinski and indicates that when transfer payments are taken into account, the picture changes and the lowest tenth receives 18 percent of its net income and the upper tenth pays 40 percent of its income. The research also shows that the subsidies do in fact contribute to the improvement of progressivity in income distribution, but when family expenses and size are taken into account it turns out that the average subsidy rate per person in the upper tenth is higher than the rate provided the lowest tenth because the members of well-to-do families consume more subsidized products than the members of poor families. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Oct 83 p 2] 9794

OBTAINING URANIUM FROM PHOSPHATES--"Israel can produce uranium from phosphoric acid derived from the phosphate quarries in the Negev"--says the president of the Israel Nuclear Science League, Prof Yig'al Ronen, at a conference of nuclear scientists and engineers which concluded yesterday in Be'ersheva. Professor Ronen has determined that Israel has the knowledge and technology to extract uranium. Israel today faces a problem in acquiring uranium to operate its nuclear reactors because it is not a signatory to the nuclear weapons non-proliferation pact. "The signatory countries are not prepared to sell us uranium, and the solution may be to extract it from the phosphoric acid which is abundant in the Negev soil," said Prof Ronen. The attendees at the conference ascertained, among other things, that even today there is need to set up a nuclear reactor for energy production in Israel. "Israel cannot be forever dependent on imported sources of energy such as oil and coal because within a few years the world demand for coal will increase and it will be hard for us to obtain it," it was stated at the congress. Conference participants claimed that the cost of constructing a nuclear reactor today is equal to that of a coal-fired power station while the energy produced in a nuclear reactor is 30 percent cheaper than that from a conventional power station. [Text] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Oct 83 p 2] 9794

JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY'S PROJECTS DETAILED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jul 83 p 3

[Article by Samih Sayir]

[Text] A responsible source in the Jordan Valley Authority has stated that the estimated cost of its projects currently undertaken in different sectors amounts to approximately 175 million dinars.

The source said that the cost of water resources projects is estimated at 45 million dinars, about 18 million of which will be contributed by foreign sources of financing. These projects include the following:

1. Wadi al-'Arab Dam

The construction of this dam started in the latter part of 1981. Its completion is expected by the end of 1986. Its height is 83 meters and its storage capacity is approximately 16 million cubic meters, which will be used to irrigate the al-Baqurah lands (6 million cubic meters) and to provide the East Ghafir canal with 10 million cubic meters for drinking purposes in the governorates of Amman and al-Balqa. The cost of this project will be approximately 17 million dinars.

2. Ground Water Storage:

The authority has started drilling production wells to utilize them for drinking purposes in Irbid governorate. Water has begun gushing from the first well, al-Mukhaybah well, at a high rate, approximately 1.5 cubic meters per second. Four wells in the Wadi al-'Arab region are currently being dug. It has been decided to drill another two wells in al-Mukhaybah and several wells in different places in Wadi al-'Arab. The cost of drilling these wells will amount to approximately 3 million dinars.

3. Enlarging King Talal Dam:

The authority has taken bids to increase the height of King Talal Dam 15 meters in order to increase its storage capacity to 80 million cubic meters. The additional water will be used to irrigate 20,000 dunums in the southern part of the Jordan Valley. The cost of this project is estimated at about 20 million dinars.

4. The al-Mukhaybah-al-'Adasiyah Canal:

The authority has begun to dig a canal between the al-Mukhayrah well and the East Ghawr canal at al-'Adasiyah. Electricity could be generated when the water of this canal pours into the East Ghawr Canal. The cost of this project will be about 1.7 million dinars.

5. Irrigation and Drainage Sector:

With respect to the irrigation and drainage sector, the source said that government investment in the irrigation projects on which work will begin amounts to about 50 million dinars. Foreign financing sources will contribute about 29 million dinars. These projects include the following:

A. Southern lowlands irrigation project (the lowlands of al-Karak):

Work on this project started last November and its completion is expected to be in August 1984. This project will irrigate about 47,000 dunums of the lowlands of al-Hadithah, al-Mazra'ah, al-Dhira', al-Safi, Fayfa and Khanzirah with water from the Wadis, of which al-Hasa is the largest.

B. Wadi al-'Arab Project

Work on this project started last April. It will take about 2 years. This project will add 6,000 dunums of irrigated land to the northern lowlands of al-Baquarah, for which water will be provided from Wadi al-'Arab dam. The cost is estimated at 5 million dinars.

C. East Ghawr Canal Extention by 14 KM:

Work on this project started at the beginning of this year and will take 4 years. This project will add approximately 60,000 dunums of irrigated land to the Jordan Valley which will be cultivated during the winter only and use the winter flow of the Yarmuk river to irrigate 40,000 dunums. The water which will be stored after the King Talal dam is enlarged will be used to irrigate another 20,000 dunums. It is not unlikely that the authority's examination of the stored ground water in the Jordan valley may lead to irrigation of these lands all year round. The cost of this project is estimated at about 25 million dinars.

D. Ground Drainage Project:

The authority will continue the project at a rate of 3,000 dunums annually, utilizing its own equipment and the services of its agencies.

6. Rural Development Sector:

The authority has completed the buildings necessary for this sector. The present project involves the construction of two buildings for the department of public safety. Future requirements for additions to the already existing buildings will be determined by the increase in population.

7. Public Utilities Sector:

Current projects consist of limited expansion in electricity and drinking water systems including hookups to homes. The authority, through its agencies, is laying drinking water lines in the villages in the lowlands of al-Karak. Additional agricultural roads and roads to run and repair the irrigation projects are currently being built.

8. Agricultural Services Sector:

Work is underway to complete a number of projects, in which about 5 million dinars are invested. The projects are:

A. A center to grade and classify agricultural products in the southern storehouse. It has been decided to finish this center by the end of the current year, thus providing the Jordan Valley with three centers which will suffice to grade the vegetable production of the valley.

B. A center to grade and classify agricultural produce in Ghawr al-Safi: It has been decided to finish this center by the end of this year. The center will provide grading, classification and marketing services for the products of al-Karak's lowlands.

C. A wooden box plant in Ghawr al-Safi to manufacture wooden containers in which to market the products of al-Karak's lowlands.

D. A 1,000-ton capacity cold storage depot in Muthallath al-'Aridah. This project is to be completed by the end of next year.

E. A seedling nursery in Ghawr al-Safi.

F. A seedling nursery in Muthallath al-Misri.

G. A soil and hydrology laboratory: This is to be in operation by the end of 1983.

9. Wadi 'Arabah:

The greenhouses which have been built in the village of Rahmah will start producing vegetables and fruit. The plastic houses and the experiemntal farms which the authority has established in Matla, Qa' al-Sa'idiyin, and Rahmah will continue their production.

10. Drinking Water Projects in the north of the kingdom will be about 75 million dinars. The projects include the following:

A. Dayr 'Alla-Amman Water Project:

Work on this project started in June of this year. Its completion is expected at the beginning of 1985. This project is by far the largest drinking water project in the kingdom, and it consists of:

--A water main, 48" in diameter to be extended from the east Ghawr canal in Dayr 'Alla to carry water to a main reservoir located halfway between Suwaylih and Wadi al-Sir. A 39" line will then carry the water to the reservoir at sports city, and a 24" line will be extended to the Iayn Ghazal Reservoir. A 246,000 cubic meter main water reservoir will be built of reinforced concrete halfway between Suwaylih and Wadi al-Sir.

--Five pumping stations to be installed in appropriate locations along the water main.

A station for water purification will be established in Zayy.

--Electric power lines capable of carrying 33 kilovolts to be constructed, as well as operations and maintenance roads. This project, when completed, will provide about 45 million cubic meters of water annually for consumption in the governorates of Amman and al-Balqa.' The project's cost will amount to about 40 million dinars.

B. Water Project in Amman and Balqa' Governorates:

Work is currently underway to prepare the final plans and the tender documents for this project. The work began in May 1983 and will be completed at the beginning of 1985. The project consists of:

--Water mains to carry water in a belt surrounding the city of Amman, the capital, from the aforementioned main reservoir of Dayr 'Alla-Amman.

--A water main to be extended to Madaba and all the villages south of the city of Amman.

--A water main to be extended from the belt surrounding Amman to the city of Abu Nusayr and the villages of Shafa Badran.

--A main to carry water from Dayr 'Alla-Amman line to the city of al-Salt and al-Jubays.

1. Reservoirs and pumping stations:

The project will cost approximately 11 million dinars.

It will be possible to carry water from Amman to al-Zarqa' by using the al-Azraq-Amman pipeline in the opposite direction.

2. Al-Mukhaybah-al-Hisa Water Project:

The authority will begin this project before the end of this year. Its completion is anticipated by the end of 1984. Water will be pumped from the new al-Mukhaybah well to a main reservoir near al-Hisa at the rate of about 60 million cubic meters yearly. Appropriate measures will be taken to pump water from wells currently being drilled in Wadi al-'Arab through the al-Mukhaybah-al-Hisa pipeline. The drinking water projects represent the backbone of a national drinking water network. It is expected that the al-Mukhaybah-al-Hisa project will be connected to that of the governorates of Amman and al-Balqa' by means of water lines and pumping stations by approximately 1988.

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BRIEFS

MUNICIPAL, RURAL COUNCIL LOANS--The board of directors of the Cities and Villages Development Bank decided in a meeting held yesterday, under the chairmanship of Mr Hasan al-Mu'mani, minister of municipal, rural and environmental affairs, to grant loans to a number of municipal and rural councils totaling 538,000 dinars to carry out several projects for public services: A loan of 100,000 dinars will be given to the municipal of Sakib to build and pave new roads and to pour asphalt mixture on the existing roads; 60,000 dinars to the municipality of al-Qatranah to complete paving the new streets and to purchase a garbage dumper; 70,000 dinars to Sabha and Sabhiyah to widen the main road and to complete the road projects in the town; 30,000 dinars to Wadi Musa to drill an artesian well; 10,000 to al-Turrah municipality to meet its financial obligations during the current year; 9,000 to Umm Qays for asphalt mixture for its roads; 10,000 to Mughir al-Shirhan to build a fence and a refreshment room for the city playground. The bank has also decided to lend Raymun municipality 5,000 dinars to purchase mercury lamps; 15,000 to Sahm al-Kaffarat to make payment to the asphalt mixture's contractors; 10,000 to al-Nu'aymah to purchase a garbage dumper; 8,000 to Kafr Abil to purchase a garbage dumper; 20,000 to Sam al-Sirhan to establish a park, a city playground and crossovers; 120,000 to Farik to build and pave roads; 140,000 to al-Ramtha to complete the projects of the vocational district; 150,000 to Ghawr al-Safi to build and pave roads; 20,000 to Kafr Dhajah to finish the project of storm drains; 50,000 to Arjan for establishing an office complex for government departments and a municipality building; 80,000 to Jarina to build and pave roads; 35,000 to Bushra to build and pave roads; 60,000 to al-Sarfa to build and pave roads; 80,000 to Karivat al-Suq and Jawa to build and pave roads; 15,000 to Malka to complete the construction of the municipality building; 5,000 to Makhrabah to finish roads projects; 10,000 to al-Thaniyah to complete roads projects; 8,000 dinars to Bakin to purchase a garbage dumper. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jul 83 : 3] 12188

CSO: 444/544

BRIEFS

BRITAIN SIGNS JET DEAL.--KUWAIT's Air Force will be supplied with British-made training jets under an agreement signed in Kuwait yesterday, officials said. The agreement was signed by Kuwait's Minister of Defence, Shaykh Salim Al-Sabah and the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Mr Ramsey Melhuish. In London, British Aerospace sources said that the deal included 12 Hawk MK64 training and defence aircraft. According to Aerospace sources the deal could be worth some £70 million. The jets will be used by the Kuwait Air Force for advanced flying and weapons training as well as in an operational air defence role, British Aerospace said. But the aircraft will also have an operational ground attack capability, the company added. The Kuwait order brings total Hawk export sales worldwide to 126, including planes in service in the UAE. Hawks can carry more than 3,000 kilos of weapons in the ground attack role, far in excess of any aircraft in the same class. These include bombs, rockets and missiles. British Aerospace was not able to say when the Hawks would be delivered to Kuwait but officials noted that the aircraft took from 18 months to two years to build. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 1 Nov 83 p 1]

CSO: 4400/63

KHAWLA ARSALAN INTERVIEWED ON EMIR MAJID'S POLITICAL STANCE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1405, 7 Oct 83 pp 84-85

[Interview with Khawla Arsalan, widow of the late Druze leader, Emir Majid Arsalan, by Zaki Shahab: "Neither Partition Nor a Druze State and There Is No Substitute for the 1943 National Pact" date and place not specified]

[Text] Some days before the death of the late Emir Majid Arsalan AL-HAWADITH had an interview with his widow, Khawla, in which there was a complete discussion concerning the situation in Lebanon, however, we did not publish the conversation in the last issue, because we were forced to replace it with coverage about the national role of her late husband in the gaining of Lebanese independence which was his last interview with AL-HAWADITH, and which was also his last meeting with the press before sickness disabled him. The conversation with Khawla Arsalan printed in this issue, is a conformation of the political way and national plan which Emir Majid had adopted during his life of national service:

The Emira Khawla, widow of Emir Majid Arsalan refutes partition and a Druze state, and she insists upon the return of Lebanon to the 1943 National Pact of which Emir Majid was one of the founders.

Ever since Emir Majid became subject to medical treatment, Emira Khawla has attained a greater role in the field of politics in addition to her social role.

In their temporary Arsalan family home in al-Ramlah al-Bayda', the Emira Khawla describes the conditions as very dangerous whether in relation to the state or in relation to the sects.

And she says:

All of the Lebanese feel that a physical danger is threatening us and our existence. There have been international struggles on our soil continuously for the last 9 years, internal unity has been lost, and only with internal unity can we resist the conferences which plot, not only against Lebanon, but rather against the region as a whole. If God does not permit, we

will not keep the unity of our country, and partition will threaten all of the Middle East. I am hoping that international pressure will succeed, represented by the powerful American role through its support for the unity and independence of Lebanon.

The truth is that all of these proposals are wrong, we have not had any results from them, and I do not want to say that I despair. I do not want to arrive at despair. We depend upon America, the greatest and largest country. If they fail then all their credibility will have failed, not only in the solution of the Lebanese crisis but also in the crisis of the Middle East and in the countries of the Third World. The French pressure and the Italian pressure are likewise important and, the Atlantic Alliance as well. There must be a solution which assures our unity, sovereignty, and independence, and if not then we and our country will have had it, despite that we have great hopes of arriving at a solution. Solutions have been proposed and have not been practically applied.

[Question] You mentioned that what is occurring is an international struggle, but you as a sect are only one tool of many in this situation.

[Answer] We are not a tool, and I wish to clarify something, the age of the international struggle is not a year or two, you know that the plan is old. We stumbled into this vortex 9 years ago and it goes on. We, the Druze sect, were not forced into this struggle. Some groups say that there is an alliance between the Syrians, the Druze and the Palestinians, I refuse that categorically, and the sect was not forced into the events, Kamal Junblatt was allied but as a party not as a sect, and approximately 85 percent of the Druze were at home. After the Israeli subdual of Lebanon, Israel aided the Lebanese forces in ascending to the al-Jabal in a challenging manner, they erected barriers and began stopping out old people. This is in addition to the killing and kidnapping. We have been suffering from that for a year, we held a meeting with all of the parties, because we did not wish to sink to such an abyss; we approve of coexistence, and we have preserved this on the al-Jabal during the long period of the events which preceded the invasion. Our problem right now is not with the Christians as a sect but with the Lebanese forces, kidnapping and slaughters have caused the tragedies in which we are experiencing.

Of course the Israelis have played the greatest role in pitting one party against another by giving them weapons. As a result Israel came to Lebanon not in order to unite it but rather to divide it. Therefore we supported the intervention of the Americans to solve the problem. We met with Habib and with McFarlane as leaders of the Druze sect, and we told them: "Help us to rid ourselves of this farce. We do not want partition, and we still wish for a united country, an independent nation."

[Question] What is the nature of the relationship existing between you as a sect and the nation of Israel?

[Answer] Frankly, Israel likes no one other than herself. Israel likes neither Druze nor Maronites. Israel carries out her plans not as a favor for the Druze or in defense of them or of the Maronites. The interest of Israeli is to light the sectarian spark to maintain its position after the drafting of the independent Lebanese pact which does not support, rather opposes the Israeli presence. With this we have been the greatest enemy to the state of Israel by way of the pact of coexistence, and therefore Israel drafted this pact to justify the accomplishment of its presence. National public opinion is not ignorant of Israel's goal.

You speak to me of an alliance, I am sure that there is no alliance with Israel. Some Israeli Druze have come to visit their relatives. There are many family ties between us and the Israeli Druze, and their visits have come as a result of feelings of solidarity present among all minorities. On top of that the Druze sect did not commit any aggression, Israel brought weapons and did not give us any, however, they did allow the Lebanese forces to draft the pact of coexistence.

[Question] Do you mean that it has become a contract of fear for you?

[Answer] Of course, a contract of fear for our existence, our presence and our future. The Druze is one of the founders of Lebanon, the Druze came to Lebanon before all other sects, and we have coexisted with everyone. The Druze believes that he has duties to his state and therefore he has rights, and his rights are in vain. As I said to the Lebanese Front and the honored president, "we will not cut off the dialogue. The language of weaponry is to no avail and will bring no results." The contract of fear which you have been speaking about is felt by us Druze, not only you as Maronites but also us as Druze, a minority in the East. We are from among the Islamic sects, and we defend the rights of Muslims in this country, we are not coming to fight the Christians, all that we are requesting is equality between sects in rights and duties, this is what we demand.

[Question] There are contacts occurring between yourselves and the government by way of local and international intermediaries to halt the shedding of blood, what are the nature of these contacts, do you expect tangible results soon?

[Answer] During his life Emir Majid never cut off dialogue with anyone, we came from our house in Khalda to "Summerland" to make possible continuing contacts which had dwindled as a result of the Israeli blockade in the area of Khalda. The telephones were out most of the time, and in addition not all matters can be discussed on the phone. The fate of the country required that the Emir attend, our contacts were continuous. That affected his health, and these contacts reached beyond local leaders to international ones to solve the crisis of al-Jabal, the situation there threatens the existence of Lebanon in its entirety. For his part, Walid Junblatt has on-going contacts and international initiatives, and we are in constant contact with him to keep in touch, and we do the same for him.

[Question] Do you mean that there is coordination between Walid and yourself concerning positions?

[Answer] Of course, there is total coordination in order to rid ourselves of the story of al-Jabal, and to protect the existence and honor of the Druze. It is necessary that an agreement be concluded, the state is undertaking contacts abroad to free the land, but at the same time it must undertake to solve the basic problem, and that is the proximity of the different sides to one another. We are for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, as all Lebanese suffer from the presence of the foreigner on his land. All the leaders of the sects must meet to resolve their fate and their future. The danger is not limited to only one group, rather we are all facing it together.

[Question] What solutions have been submitted so far?

[Answer] There are some solutions which have been submitted, the Americans brought a working paper to Paris but it failed again. Walid was responsive and so were we for our part. We had arrived at an agreement with the state without mentioning the articles, because that would have come in its own time. The developments threw everything into disorder, we are testing the old proposal to see if there is any life in it.

[Question] After the new developments what are the general guidelines for the desired solution?

[Answer] I will keep the details to myself, but there must be agreement concerning the principles upon which will be held the national meeting which the president is calling for. The meeting will not be a problem later. The important aspect is the principles.

The search goes on, what is requested quickly is a stop to the butchery and a stop to the shedding of blood. In the articles of the agreement, wherever the army is found, there should be no militias and since the army is present in Suq-al-Gharb, why are the barracks not closed there even though there is an agreement that the army not go to the al-Jabal before the agreement to that effect.

[Question] Does Walid Junblatt bear responsibility for the Druze for what is occurring in al-Jabal, or do you share that responsibility with him?

[Answer] In relation to the al-Jabal, Walid has his own specific political line and we have our own specific political line, but in the battle of al-Jabal is the fate of the sect exactly. Danger threatens all of us. Therefore there is a consensus of opinion among the Druze leaders concerning the subject of al-Jabal and the future of the Druze and the protecting of their honor, existence and presence, and all that occurs is a matter of negotiation.

[Question] Where did you agree with Walid Janblat and where did you disagree?

[Answer] Walid has the Salvation Front; we do not have any relation with it. The line of Emir Majid is clear. All of his life he has practiced politics, the Arsalan line has its particular character as does the Junblatt line. Each one has a different point of view concerning the subject, but in relation to the battle of al-Jabal we are in agreement.

[Question] What do you think about the alliance of Walid with Syria?

[Answer] Emir Majid does not have any alliances which tie him with another country. We have friends from amongst Arab kings and presidents. Walid has his political doctrine and so do we. And these, of course, are matters which do not relate to the Druze and to their battle.

[Question] How do you reconcile your relationship as Druze with Syria and Israel at the same time?

[Answer] There is no alliance with Israel, there was some give and take with the Israelis when they were in the region of al-Jabal because of their presence. If Israel's intention had been sound, they would have enforced security by force in the area of al-Jabal. The occupying army has the responsibility of imposing security by force. I repeat there is no political alliance with Israel. We had been asking them to open the way from here and aid in breaking the blockade around the pact.

[Question] There is news from Israel to the effect that about 1,300 Druze soldiers are requesting permission from their commanders to come to al-Jabal to aid the Druze at al-Jabal, what do you think about this?

[Answer] I do not have any information. We, the Lebanese Druze, are defiant on our land, and we defend our rights. We don't want anybody not from the Syrian Druze nor from the Israeli Druze... We are capable of facing this task and more to defend our rights, our existence, and our presence.

[Question] To what extent has your presence in the Arsalan house protected the unity of the Druze position?

[Answer] Since my marriage when I was 17, both Emir Majid and Kamal Junblatt had their doctrine. Public opinion was not aware of the mutual respect which remained between the Druze leaders, and family get togethers were continuous, and we kept them so. Before I was in the Arsalan house, she (the late widow of Kamal Junblatt) was an Arsalan family member in the Junblatt house. In our sect political struggles have their own character as do social and family matters. The existant solidarity is attributable to no one. Each Druze is allied with his brother in one line, all of us feel fear and deceit clearly; Druze are now fighting side by side leaving aside natural internal disagreements.

[Question] Are you for keeping the 1943 National Pact or would you have it changed?

[Answer] You know that Emir Majid was one of the founders of the pact, I am for keeping it and developing it after assuring the independence of the sects and their kinship with each other, and the equality of all spiritual families, because we do not want to go back every 20 or 30 years to have an assembly. We want to rid ourselves of fear and deceit. Frankly speaking, the obstacles are dissolving.

[Question] After the worsening of the crisis in al-Jabal some proposed the subject of cantons in their private gatherings, what do you think about this?

[Answer] All of his life Emir Majid has been for a united independent Lebanon. This is his political doctrine and we believe in it. The school of Emir Majid taught us this way, we will continue with all of our efforts to make it take root. Our belief does not allow partition or fragmentation; the division of Lebanon would be like the vanishing of us and of Lebanon. We will remain with all our strength protecting it, one moment we hear of the division of Lebanon, another moment we hear of sectarian mini-states, or of cantons, or of a federalist union, they are all proposals.

[Question] Has anyone spoken of these subject before?

[Answer] I have read about them in the local and international newspapers.

[Question] Have you spoken about them with any politicians?

[Answer] No...we hear about them and read about them a lot, former President Cham'un spoke about Federalism a week ago, the international papers discuss the partition of Lebanon one moment and the next of the appropriation of parts of Lebanon. Israel speaks of the partition of Lebanon, but I doubt that, we refute all of this discussion, we believe in living in an independent united country with equal rights and duties. If cantons are necessary, there is no objection if it remains within a united Lebanon, provided that there is administrative decentralization and that there is not political or sectarian decentralization.

This is a pact for beautiful Lebanon, the role of Lebanon to be characterized by the cooperative relationship between its people.

[Question] Under what circumstances would you support the setting up of a loose state?

[Answer] God forbid. I do not permit myself to ever think of that. It is not in the making, whatever happens, we do not want that.

[Question] After the development of specific events, Pierre al-Jumayyil said, in war may the strong survive, what do you think of that?

[Answer] May God forgive Shaykh Pierre for these words. The structure of Lebanon would be threatened if one party overpowered the other. I also heard Fadi Afram discussing the conquerer and the conquered, such logic is rejected. It is necessary that each one of us bear some responsibility and sacrifice so that we may rid our children of this slaughter and combat. We want a step to lead us towards cohesiveness and not to an increase in aggravation and hardship of the situation. No Lebanese is victorious over another except through our unity with each other and through our cohesiveness, the liberation of our country, and life with mutual respect and honor. The foreigner is the only one who benefits.

[Question] You have supported the administration since the beginning. What has brought about the sudden shift in your position of support?

[Answer] We have supported lawfulness, and we still believe in our support, what we want is justice, fairness, and equality among all Lebanese. We are still for lawfulness, and when the president called for a conference we supported the president and we still do. We are calling for the unification of Lebanon, and we responded to the president's appeal.

[Question] There is a movement for the forming of a national union government composed of notable persons in the country, what do you think of this?

[Answer] We are for every ministry in which there is national consent, we are for a meeting of the functionaries in a conference to set the foundations of the new Lebanon, in order to rid us of the black cloud which hovers over all our heads, we are for any pact of consent.

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030: 4404/85

MINISTRY SOURCE DISCUSSES FOOD SECURITY

Doha AL-'AHD in Arabic 18 Oct 83 p 28

[Article: "Food Security in Qatar For Meeting the Probability of Increased Population"]

[Text] The problem of food security in the state of Qatar and the extent of the population's need for food products during the period from 1981 until the year 2000 is an extremely important one in respect to the expected needs for different agricultural products during the next 20 years. Therefore the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture decided to put this problem in its comprehensive program concerning development as a principle for leading the country's investments and directing it towards the realization of complete development goals.

The AL-'AHD met with a knowledgeable source in the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture who said:

- Grain consumption in Qatar (wheat, rice, and other wheat products) in 1980 amounted to 44,000 tons and if we take the average individual consumption of these grains, we find approximately:

For the period from 1980-1985, we find a compound annual average of 4.7 percent

For the period from 1985-1990, we find a compound annual average of 3.5 percent

For the period from 1990-1995, we find a compound annual average of 3.0 percent

For the period from 1995-2000, we find a compound annual average of 2.4 percent.

On the basis of that the population of Qatar during the next 20 years is expected to develop as follows:

Estimated number of residents by the end of 1985 = 302,000.

Estimated number of residents by the end of 1990 = 358,000.

Estimated number of residents by the end of 1995 = 410,000.

Estimated number of residents by the end of 2000 = 470,000.

He added that in respect to consumption the needs for wheat in Qatar are expected to reach about 60,000 tons in the year 2000.

Average vegetable production to a hectare reached about 12 tons, meaning that the average production per hectare was 18,000 Qatari riyals.

The source indicated that in the light of currently available water resources, it is not possible to expand wheat crops at the expense of land now used for vegetables no matter how important we consider this crop as a strategic good. This opinion is built on three principles:

- Consumption of vegetables represents a principal article in the daily Qatari diet. The current production of vegetables in Qatar aims for an increase of 6.1 percent annually, and currently supplies 70 percent of Qatar's need for vegetables.
- The difficulty of storing vegetables for more than several months, and even if it was possible to store them, the Qatari consumption pattern refuses that.
- The ease of storing wheat for a period of from 3 to 5 years.
- Concerning the question of how the state of Qatar can expand its wheat production outside the realm of existing farms in a manner in which self-sufficiency is realized.

The source said: The arable land area in Qatar outside the realm of existing farms is about 27,000 hectares according to all of the estimates and based on the supposition that it is specialized entirely in the production of wheat, then the area suitable for wheat annually according to the basics of field crop production will not be more than 9,000 hectares not to mention that the cultivation of this area with wheat will require huge investments to provide necessary irrigation and leveling of the land.

The official indicated that the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture had presented the proposal for establishing wheat crop storage with a capacity of 120,000 tons so that it would be possible to store the country's requirements for this crop.

Rice

The source indicated that the rice crop represents about one-third of the total grain in the country to the extent that the volume of consumption had reached about 14,000 tons. After wheat, rice is considered to have the next most strategic importance, such that he indicated Qatari consumption will increase by the year 2000 according to the consumption averages, or about 23,000 tons in the year 2000.

Fresh Vegetables

It is expected that total Qatari needs, which are based on average population growth, for fresh vegetables during the coming years will increase as follows:

1985 approximately 43,200 metric tons
1990 approximately 53,600 metric tons
1995 approximately 63,500 metric tons
2000 approximately 73,500 metric tons

Total Canned Vegetables

Qatar imported different varieties of canned vegetables and tomato paste. This had a value of 10 million riyals such that the average annual growth of imported amounts is estimated at about 7.7 percent. This indicates that probably the amount of imports will reach about 3,325 tons in 1990, and in 2000 about 4,800 tons provided that production remains at current levels during this future period.

12390

CSO: 4404/105

BRIEFS

FISHING INDUSTRY--Local fish production during the last year realized a total income of about 24 million Qatari riyals, 10.61 percent of the total agricultural production while the total value for 1981 was about 26 million Qatari riyals. Doctor 'Abd al-Khaliq Iman, director of Fishing Management, said that local fish production last year was a significant proportion of agricultural income and covered about 86 percent of Qatari consumption. He indicated that total quantitative consumption of fresh fish last year had reached about 2,315 tons while the amount produced in 1981 was about 2,603 tons and in 1980 it was about 2,178 tons. The director of Fishing Management explained that average individual consumption during the year was about 10 kilograms which is considered to be very average if it were compared to individual consumption of fish in the Gulf and in many other countries of the world. Also Doctor Iman assured that average prices for fish had not experienced any sudden changes during the last 3 years, despite the rise in costs. He said that Qatar National Fishing Company, which has had continual increases in production year after year had had a great influence in providing fish to the citizens and in keeping the average prices. [Text] [Doha AL-'URUBAH in Arabic 20 Oct 83 p 5] 12390

CSO: 4404/105

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD VIEWS GRADUATION CEREMONIES OF MILITARY YOUTH UNIT

Doha AL-'ARAB in Arabic 15 Oct 83 p 14

[Article by Dina Matar: "Intense Syrian Preparations to Train a Military Force to Support the Armed Forces"]

[Text] I took a photograph of Jiyada Dib, who is a young 17-year-old girl, crawling on the ground like a snake with her head poised for the kill while the Syrian President, Hafiz al-Asad and his military aids were watching.

Miss Dib, who is a member of a reserve military force consisting of 10,000 male and female youths between the ages of 16 and 20 said, "this is part of our training."

She informed the journalists, who were attending graduation ceremonies for a new youth unit consisting of 3,000 persons, "we must get used to snakes, and we must eat them if the enemy cuts off our food supplies."

President al-Asad praised these girls at their graduation saying, "You are Syrian youth, you are Syria's army."

This youth unit was established in 1980, and the officials say that all of the members are volunteers from Syrian secondary schools.

They continued that Syria is serious about preparing its youth for fulfilling a specific role in the realization of the Syrian goals of unity, freedom, and socialism.

In addition to the youth force, there are required studies for the students in the schools. These are similar to scout training rather than military training. The aim of this training is to prepare children for military service.

University students are associated with different military organizations called the National Union, which is a branch of the ruling al-Ba-th Arab Socialist Party.

The officials said that the publicized task of the youth army is to aid the Syrian armed force in case of attack or to aid in suppressing internal disturbances.

The presence of President al-Asad at the graduation ceremonies indicates the importance which the government places on the youth movement.

He said to the graduates: "Syria will take a stand against any enemy which it faces or which the Arab world faces. The era of fear has taken over. Nevertheless, we must prepare ourselves because our enemy, Israel, exploits the world for its own benefit and also to fulfill its expansionist plans."

The graduates attended a 3 month course during which the girls and boys were trained in the use of heavy and light weaponry, tank warfare, and parachuting. Officials said six girls have been killed during training since 1980 when their parachutes did not open during the jump.

The sight of girls and boys wearing camouflaged clothing and carrying machine guns has become a common occurrence in Syrian streets. Also it is common for traffic to be stopped because they are marching in groups on the roads.

13100

000: 4404/105

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DAILY ON U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS, ARAB SOLIDARITY

GF191156 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Nov 83

[From press review]

[Excerpt] On U.S.-Israeli relations, the newspaper AL-BAYAN said in its editorial today: Those who are following events in the Arab world and what is going on in the arena of conflict against the Israeli enemy surely are witnessing a phenomenon which is becoming clearer and clearer with every passing day. That is U.S. aid to the Israeli enemy increases as disintegration and division increases in the Arab world. In other words, every time Arab differences increase and deepen, the United States increases its bias to Israel and its defiance of Arab interests and feelings.

The question which we should be asking is how long will the Arabs continue to ignore the fact that by giving priority to their internal differences and by paying attention to the threats menacing them and the western and eastern ambitions in their homeland, they arouse the enemy's appetite for committing more aggression and for its total disregard of Arab rights?

The United States continues to support the Israeli war machine because it does not simply expect any reaction from the Arabs who are busy with their own conflicts. The moment when minimum Arab solidarity is achieved, Washington will review its stands, Moscow will hesitate for a long time before it includes the region in its ambitions, and Israel will lose its ability to exist and above all, to continue to commit aggressions.

END 0000/5/

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UAE LABOR MINISTER ON FOREIGN LABOR ISSUES

GF201422 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 20 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Doha, 20 Nov (WAKH)--Khalfan ar-Rumi, UAE minister of labor and social affairs, affirmed that there is a plan to unite the labor system, legislation and the designations, structures and specializations of the work administrations in the GCC countries in order to create a joint Gulf policy in the foreign labor field of the region's countries.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH published today, he said that the growth of foreign labor in the Gulf countries is a matter that cannot be ignored by those who adopt the labor policy in the region. Thus, the joint plans to face this problem require coordination among development projects in the region, as well as in housing, and industrial, agricultural, teaching, and training policies.

Mr Ar-Rumi pointed out the importance of making joint studies on projects and to establish integration plans in industry and among the joint projects which are being implemented, before taking this step.

He said that these studies should take into consideration the material capabilities and the best geographical location in order to reduce production costs and make implementation more useful. He said that on this basis, every country will be in need of professional manpower until the exchange of the experiences and laborers among the Gulf countries takes place on the basis of a plan to implement some of the joint projects.

He said that the comparison study which was made on labor and social affairs laws in the Arab Gulf countries by the followup office of the Arab Gulf labor and social affairs ministers' council has shown mutuality among these laws and rules and called for further discussion of these issues until integration is achieved.

CSO: 4400/67

BRIEFS

1982 REVENUES--According to a preliminary report published in the latest issue of the biannual economic report of the UAE Central Bank, the UAE revenues in 1982 totaled 29.47 billion dirhams, distributed as follows: 24.6 billion dirhams in oil revenues; 1.57 billion dirhams in customs duty; 3.26 billion dirhams in other revenues. In 1981 revenues totaled 50.5 billion dirhams which were distributed as follows: 45.4 billion dirhams in oil revenues; 1.6 billion dirhams in customs duty; and 3.42 billion dirhams in other revenues. The federal state's expenses in 1982 totaled 41.7 billion dirhams distributed as follows: 26.2 billion dirhams in current expenses; 9 billion dirhams in development expenses; and 6.5 billion dirhams in contributions and capital payments. In 1981 expenses totaled 44.8 billion dirhams distributed as follows: 27 billion dirhams in current expenses; 8.2 billion dirhams in development expenses; and 8.2 billion dirhams in contributions and capital payments. [Summary] [GF271216 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 24 Oct 83 p 6 GF]

ABU DHABI BUDGET--Abu Dhabi, 24 Oct (WAM)--Lt Gen Khalifah ibn Zayid al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent, deputy supreme commander of the armed forces, and speaker of the Executive Council, in his capacity as deputy ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, today issued 1983 law No. 6 on the 1983 general budget for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The law states that the general budget for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi for the fiscal year 1983 totals 21,516.241 million dirhams, while expenses for the same period are estimated at 24,284.829,125 million dirhams. The law states that the contribution of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to the UAE federal budget is estimated at 9.5 billion dirhams, while the international and local aid contributed by the emirate is estimated at 3,850.040,125 million dirhams. The budget is effective for the period 1 January-31 December 1983. [Summary] [Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Oct 83 GF]

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL RESIDENTS--Doha, 13 Nov (QNA)--In an interview published in today's issue of the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH, director of the Passport Department Sa'id Hamad as-Sulayti said that identification cards for foreigners are being prepared which contain all details on the persons, their nationalities, names, and places of work. He said these cards will be shown during the campaign which will be carried out at establishments and companies, in the streets, and in the markets, to enforce the law on crimes of entrance and residence in the country. Mr as-Sulayti

said that the department will be able to identify immigration violators through these cards. [Summary] [GF131154 Doha QNA in Arabic 0926 GMT 13 Nov 83 GF]

CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, WORKERS--Dubayy--The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in 213 inspections it carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior and the directorates of police in the UAE, apprehended 866 persons who were in violation of the labor and immigration laws--of whom 755 were deported--during the July-September 1983 period. Also during these inspections, 103 establishments were found to be violating the labor and immigration laws, of which 36 establishments were taken to court, while 67 others were warned that they should redress their affairs. Also 120 house servants and workers in a similar category, such as market porters, were found to be violating the immigration laws. Some 69 inspectors took part in the inspection campaign. [Text] [GF141410 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 Nov 83]

ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH NETHERLANDS--Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)--The UAE cabinet, in its session today which was chaired by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyn, approved an economic and technical agreement with the Netherlands. [Excerpt] [GF141352 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 83 GF]

CSO: 4400/67

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

NEW INTELLIGENCE UNIT--The political office in South Yemen has set up a new intelligence unit. A source close to the government affirmed that the security disturbances in the country in recent weeks had notably caused great anxiety amongst party and government members. It was a situation that prompted the political office of the Yemeni Socialist Party to make the following resolution: To strengthen and reenforce the militia forces which are the military arm of the party to the point where they will become a force comparable in its power and efficiency to the army and police forces combined. To implement this resolution it immediately took the following steps: It brought more Cuban elements into the training of militia members in all the provinces of the Republic to where the number of Cubans has reached 730 distributed in the training camps that have been set up in the provinces. The new intelligence force which is called the Military Intelligence Department of the Militia was set up with the assistance of East Germany. The regime asked for 165 experts from East Germany to select the individuals for this department from militia members and to train them in intelligence methods in special camps established for that purpose. [Text] [Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic No 37, 15 Sep 83 p 3] 9587

ISO: 447-33

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

GUERRILLA TRAINING CAMPS--Sultan Ahmad Omar arrived in Teheran on 14 July 1983 as chief of a sabotage unit which would undertake sabotage and terrorism operations in the Yemen Arab Republic from bases in South Yemen under the command of Major Salih Muslih, minister of defense in the Marxist government of Aden. He arrived in Teheran accompanied by seven other officers of this terrorist unit to visit the camp that they would set up in Iran designed to train nearly 300 men from the North and South Yemens, in terrorist operations. Likewise Syria has established a camp near Dira' for nearly 1,500 individuals both from North and South Yemen to train them in guerrilla warfare and terrorist operations. Meanwhile 20 of these trained men under the leadership of a man supposedly named 'Adil Ahmad Shamsan arrived in Cyprus from Syria following orders issued to them by their officers to go to Cyprus and wait for instructions with their required task and how to do it. In Ethiopia a camp was opened for Marxist terrorists operating in the region, especially for operatives in Y.A.R. working in terrorist squads. The camp has members from both North and South Yemen, and was set up in the Ethiopia area of Axum. The training of these people was left in the command of the Ethiopian Major Minasa Jizawi, who got his training during a year spent in Moscow in 1980 for guerrilla warfare and abduction methods. In addition the Marxist regime in Aden has entrusted to Muhammad Yaslim al-Bar'i, the right hand man of Sultan Ahmad Omar, the task of supervising the dispatch of young men to Ethiopia for training in terrorism. The man named al-Bar'i is an announcer on Radio Aden and one of the commanders of terrorist units in the North. He trained in Cuba. [Text] [Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic No 37, 15 Sep 83 p 3] 9387

CSD: 4404/88

PRESS REPORTS OPPOSITION COMMENT ON ELECTION PLANS

Jamaat-e-Islami Resolution

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 15 Oct 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has called for immediate withdrawal of Martial Law in the interest of the nation and strongly demanded parliament election by March next.

The party in a resolution unanimously adopted at a conference of the members yesterday said if Martial Law lingers the people would be forced to build up movement for establishing democracy.

The 4-day conference inaugurated by Acting Amir of Jaamat Mr Abbas Ali Khan was attended by the Amirs of 35 political districts of the organisation and 55 members of the Majlis-e-Sura.

The conference urged the government not to push the country towards destruction by prolonging Martial Law and hoped that arrangement would be made for holding parliament election first in order to pave the way for establishment of democracy.

The serious problems of the country can be resolved only by the people's representatives, the conference said adding that immediate lifting of Martial Law is an imperative for keeping the armed forces above all political controversies.

The Jamaat-e-Islami stated in categorical terms that the people could not be held responsible any way for failure of democracy. Although the ruling parties failure was responsible to a great extent, the architect of it was a number of uniform personnel.

In this connection, the party mentioned that it is late President Ayub Khan of erstwhile Pakistan who initiated military administration in 1958 and still the nation could not get ride of it. The conference observed that democratic system could not be introduced in any country where Martial Law was imposed because democracy can not be established in undemocratic way.

Earlier, inaugurating the conference Acting Amir of Jamaat Mr. Abbas Ali Khan said, democracy and Martial Law are contrary to each other. He described the

school forces as the symbol of hopes and aspirations of the nation and said they should remain above all controversies and politics.

He said the Government has kept politics confined within the four walls but is still going it at every nook and corner of the country in the name of 18-point programme. He suggested immediate transfer of power to the people's representatives by holding parliament polls.

The Action Unit of Jamaat criticised the Government for maintaining silence and not contesting the threat time and again posed by India to national sovereignty and independence.

Jatiyo Oikya Front Chairman

Dacca 24: DEM NATION in English 15 Oct 83 pp 1, 8

[Dacca] The Chairman of the Jatiyo Oikya Front Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed said yesterday that there is a national consensus for holding national level elections within March 1984 on the basis of the suspended constitution.

Addressing a rally at Serajganj municipal auditorium, Khondakar Mushtaque said that the demand for withdrawal of Martial Law has become the national demand. He demanded announcement of the date for national election prior to the election of local bodies.

Referring to the representative government Khondakar Mushtaque said that the elected government is next best alternative for replacing another elected government, not the military rule. He also maintained 'a dictator can neither save the country nor can save himself.'

Presided over by Mr Abdur Rouf, the meeting was addressed by Mrs. Amina Begum, Justice Ashraf Hossain, Maj. (Retd.) Jainul Abedin, Advocate Sarafat Hossain, Quader, Farid Haq Chowdhury Mehedi and Sahafiul Alam Pradhan.

Regarding the water sharing agreement with India, Khondakar Mustaque said that the present government sold out the interest of Bangladesh in signing the agreement on the Ganges water on October 7 last and the economy was leased out by constituting Joint Economic Commission with India.

The next meeting of the Jatiyo Oikya Front will be held at Rangpur at 4 p.m. today. The Chairman of the front and former President Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed and other central leaders will address the meeting.

(D) Aloud

Off. Genl. Abdul Wahid President of Democratic League (Mushtaque, yesterday called for a 7-party alliance to sever relations with the 14-point Alliance which he termed as the link of the Indo-Soviet axis and gain power to elect a government free from India.

Addressing the extended meeting of the Democratic League Dhaka city committee Oli Ahad reiterated the OLA demand for announcing the date within Oct 31 of election on the basis of the suspended constitution and withdrawal of 'artial law. Oli Ahad said they would launch all-out efforts to establish people's government.

Termining those on conspiracies of the Indo-Soviet axis Oli Ahad bitterly condemned the latest water sharing accord on Farakka and the Teesta, Joint Economic Commission, and proposed rail and river transit facilities through Bangladesh.

Presided over by Prof. Gelluzzaman the meeting was also addressed by Sirajul Islam, Prof. Monirul Haq and Golam Naser.

DLP-Sattar Vice Chairman

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] DHAKA Oct. 21: Begum Khaleda Zia Senior Vice Chairman of DLP (Sattar) reiterated the demand for holding the parliamentary polls immediately. She also voiced the demand for withdrawal of Martial Law from the country.

Begum Khaleda Zia was addressing a largely-attended rally this afternoon in front of the United Club here.

The rally was organized by the Dhaka city and district units of DLP (Sattar).

Presided over by Sheikh Razaque Ali a former Member of Parliament the rally was addressed among others by Mirza Golam Hafiz Former Speaker of Parliament Lt. Col. (Retd) Mustafizur Rahman Former Home Minister Abdul Homen Khan former Food Minister Ashraf Hossain Afazuddin Fakir Maqbul Hossain Dewan Sirajul Haq Ahmed Ali all former MPs and Mr. Nurul Islam city DLP President.

Begum Zia said that the 19-point programme which was announced by her husband was the real charter of emancipation of the people. She hoped that the workers of her party and the followers of the late President Ziaur Rahman would launch seamless struggle to establish the 19-point programme.

Begum Khaleda Zia said that her party stood by the institutions of Gram Sarkars and barehuet village doctors. She would call a conference of the Gram Sarkars and village doctors in Dhaka soon she added.

MP-Dhaka Chairman

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Oct 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mr. Kamal Hossain Chairman Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Thursday called on the Government to declare a definite date for presidential election in the country by November 15 as a first step of transition towards democratic scenario.

He said that his party was not satisfied with the announcement of the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen. H. M. Ershad in the United States for holding presidential election in the middle of next year. What we want he said is a definite date for presidential election and that of Parliament within three months of the presidential election.

Mr Chowdhury was speaking at a discussion meeting held in connection with the fifth founding anniversary of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Juho Dal at the DDSA auditorium. The meeting was addressed among others by Mr Reazuddin Ahmed (Bhola via) Mrs Kamrun Nahar Zafar Mr S. A. Khaleq and Mr Ruhul Amin Howlader chief of Juhodal.

In his speech Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury called for fulfilment of certain preconditions with the announcement of a definite date for presidential election in the country by November 15. The preconditions included release of all political prisoners belonging to all political parties withdrawal of all restrictions on open politics in the country and freedom of Press

He warned that his party would take 'hard decision' if their demands were not conceded to by November 15" Our movement will not remain confined to towns and cities only rather it will spread to the sixtyeight thousand villages of the country' he said and urged the party workers to prepare themselves mentally for any eventuality

Explaining the reason for demanding presidential election first Mr. Chowdhury said that if the poll to the National Assembly was held before the presidential poll there would be negative votes. And in that event the very existence and stability of parliament would be threatened limiting its life to not more than one month. That is why he argued presidential election should be preceded by parliamentary election. After the presidential election the head of the state would take the responsibility of the country and call parliament into session he added.

He thought that one reason of the political parties demanding parliamentary election first might be that they wanted to turn the National Assembly into a constituent assembly to decide the system of government. In this connection he pointed out that none had any right to change the now suspended constitution which had been endorsed by the people through the last two presidential elections. General (Ptd) M A C Osmany and Dr. Kamal Hossain were he presidential candidates of the opposition parties supporting parliamentary system of Government he added.

Strongly disapproving the idea of constituent assembly the BNP Chairman said that the elected National Assembly would be competent enough to make amendments to the constitution. In this context he noted that the National Assembly under the rule of BNP Government had replaced the one-party BAKSAL system by multiparty system through the Fifth Amendment.

In an amendment the National Assembly inserted the name of Almighty Allah in the constitution deleting the word "secularism" from it he said.

Stressing the paramount need for democracy Mr. Chowdhury quoted the saying of Mao Tse Tung "just as fish cannot live without water no government can rule the country without taking people with them"

The sovereignty of a country would not be consolidated and its foreign policy would not be strong and independent if the people were deprived of their rights and democracy. Without democracy the country would fall back at every step if their democratic rights were denied he therefore pleaded for restoration of democracy for the peace-loving people of this country.

CSO: 4600/1217

RESIDENTS OF ENCLAVES FACE HARRASSMENT FROM INDIANS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Oct 83 p 12

[Text] RANGPUR Oct. 27:--The inhabitants of Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves again fell victim to unprovoked oppression and harassment by Indians for the last few weeks, according to information received here.

Indian Security Forces tightened their positions around enclaves and a huge number of special Border Security Forces were deployed by the Indian government to enhance strength of the forces there the entire 12,000 people of these enclaves are again facing captivity following strong blockade by Indians.

According to information the people of these enclaves cannot move even towards the nearest Indian markets of Mekligoni Bazar and Dhapperhat. A few days back some residents of these enclaves named Kha sar Uddin and Daliruddin went to market at Mekligoni Bazar avoiding Border Security Forces but on their return they were chased by the Forces at Naltaol border and ultimately taken into custody.

Similarly Abdus Sattar Maja Mohammad Bhatka Mohammad Dalu Mohammad, Bablu Mohammad, Ali Hossain Daraj Uddin Abu Taleb and some others were arrested by Border Security Forces inside the enclave and subsequently many of them released. Border Security Forces also took away some cattle from the enclaves and warned that they would take away all their cattle in future.

In the face of frequent trespass and torture by Indians the growers of enclaves became panicky and hardly dared to cultivate their lands in bordering areas. As a result huge areas of land are lying barren there. They also stopped grazing their cattle in the area in apprehension of being forcibly kidnapped by the Border Security Forces.

It may be noted that on September 15, 1981 an agreement was signed between Administrations of Rangpur and Coochbihar in which enclaves people were allowed to move freely inside Indian territory for marketing and treatment until Tin Bigha Corridor settlement.

CSO: 4600/1217

CREATION OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES NEEDS PRIORITY OVER TRAINING

DHAKA ITIFAJ in Bengali 30 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] Youth Development Minister retired Air Vice Marshal Aminul Islam announced a policy for youth development for the purpose of involving the younger generation of the country in national development. In an interview last Monday with the BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY, he said that the total number of unemployed in the country is now 12 million, 60 percent of which belong to the younger generation. The government will set a priority for training the young people first, so that instead of being a burden on society they will be able to find profitable employment for themselves. He added that in the present year, 12,000 youths are being trained in 35 different vocations.

This initiative on the part of the government can be described as auspicious because in almost all poor and developing countries those who are most neglected happen to be children, adolescents and youth. The government's prominent persons or groups--all direct their efforts to please only the population. They generally seem to be unmindful of the fact that the welfare of the nation is totally dependent on the welfare of the children and youth. Nobody makes any attempt to guide them in the right direction. On the other hand, their natural course of development is interrupted at every step on the pretext of their immaturity and misguided efforts. They are made to look like an accused at the bar of public opinion. To the best of our knowledge, since the training program for educated youth started in 1979, some thousands have been given training in farming, with cattle, at fisheries and poultry-raising in different parts of the country. Perhaps some of them have already started applying their training in practical fields. If different training programs sponsored by the Youth Division continue uninterrupted, it can be hoped that the number of candidates and trainees will gradually increase. However, we wish to raise a question at this point. We have learned from the minister's statement, the present number of the unemployed in the country is 12 million, 60 percent comprising members of the younger generation. In our estimation, of course, the actual number should be at least three times more. But even we accept the figures given out by the minister as valid, the question arises whether the government has the ability to train these 12 million unemployed people in different vocations for profitable employment in the future. Does the administration have the necessary funds, organization and means of application? Of course not. The government may be able to arrange for some training at elementary levels,

that is all. We therefore think that emphasis should be put more on increasing opportunities for employment for the unemployed rather than on youth training.

Another relevant factor is that the government has already taken the initiative to start training arrangements in different industries in this country on a small scale, including cabinet-making. In that project, many candidates were given training. However, they did not find employment, nor were they able to take the initiative to establish a business, the reason being that there is still no demand for the products of such small industries in our country. Eventually, the training center had to be closed down. That is why we are inclined to think that marketing the industrial products should be considered first, while action is taken on training programs, industrial loans and other incentives.

6740

CSW: 4807/72

PRESS REPORTS REBHAD VISIT TO UNITED STATES

24 October Chamber of Commerce Speech

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26, 27 Oct 83

[26 Oct 83 pp 3, 7]

[Text] Following is the text of the address of Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. K. Ershad to members of US Chamber of Commerce at the Hall of Flares of the Chamber building on Monday:

Mr President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel deeply honoured to be in the midst of such a distinguished gathering. Most of you are directly involved in activities related to industry, trade and commerce which provide unique vitality to your economy and have long assumed a pioneering position to the United States in the world. I, therefore, particularly welcome this opportunity to speak to you about some aspects of our economy and what my Government is doing for building a viable and self-reliant Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is generally viewed abroad as a country with insurmountable problems perpetually dependent on foreign assistance for its very survival. In our opinion this is a grossly over simplified, if not biased, view of Bangladesh. We regard ours as a developing country with a large population and narrow production base. Long periods of neglect and deprivation have contributed to this situation.

I would, however, like to tell you that there is substantial potential to build Bangladesh into a modern society. Ours is a land of fertile soil with plenty of water and mineral and marine resources which we have not been able to explore and exploit fully as yet. Our people are hard working but needs to be trained and mobilised. Our primary need today is to put our available resources to maximum use. Our national objective is to achieve a measure of self-reliance within the shortest possible time.

The policies and achievements of my government should be viewed in the context of the situation prevailing at the time when we assumed responsibility

of administration some 10 months ago. The government machinery almost came to a standstill. As a result of deterioration in law and order situation, an imminent food crisis, growth in non-productive expenditures and unprecedented corruption the economy was about to collapse. The business community was fast losing confidence and foreign and domestic firms were withholding investment. The situation had approached such a desperate state that both the IIT and the public bank threatened to withhold previously allocated Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and indeed, did do so for some time.

Public financing had reached uncontrollable proportions. We also suffered from the latest world economic recession which in fact had started in 1973/74. The sharp oil shock, decline in world trade and fall in GNP dealt a severe blow to the economy. Bangladesh lost about a billion dollars in purchasing power due to deterioration in its terms of trade during 1976-77. The level of imports fell with serious repercussion for government budget since 50 per cent of its revenue emanates from duties and taxes on imports. Food grain production declined due to perverse weather condition bringing down growth rate to 7.5 per cent.

The immediate task before the Government was to revive the confidence of the business community and foreign donors and international agencies in the economy. We had to introduce austerity measures and reduce expenditures on administration and other unproductive uses. The development projects were re-evaluated in view of the available resources and their priority in the national context.

Agriculture which is the backbone of our economy claimed our priority attention. The sector accounts for 55 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product as against about 9 per cent by modern industrial sector. Sustenance of majority of our people 80 per cent of whom lives in villages comes from agriculture. It provides 75 per cent of all employment and over 80 per cent of all exports. Development of this vital sector is naturally a priority pre-occupation of the Government.

One of the major decisions taken by my government in the economic field is to allow the private sector to play an increasingly important role in the industrial development of our country. With this object in view a New Industrial Policy (NIP) was announced in June 1972. Under the new policy the Government has set up services of various agencies to be made available to prospective investors for counselling and assistance. It has now initiated a general policy of transformation whereby the private sector will be called upon more and more to spearhead the development effort.

Under the NIP sector for all sectors of strategic and national importance such as arms and ammunition, atomic energy, air transport, tele-communications, power, distribution of electricity and mechanized extraction of timber from forests, all other fields are now open to the private sector. Private investment is not allowed in jute industry and cotton textiles and government has already returned 70 jute and 20 cotton textile mills to their original local owners. The government has divested 140 enterprises and the system is in process of transferring under the law 140 more enterprises from 24 to 100

where formal permission of the government is not required provided capital machinery are imported under Wage Earner's Scheme--a scheme which allows import of specified items by utilising the remittances made by Bangladeshis earning abroad suppliers credit and non-repatriable foreign investment. A number of measures have also been taken to simplify the approval procedures especially for those projects involving foreign participation. These measures are, first administrative layers have been reduced to one by establishing a 'one-stop-service' which will deal with the entire spectrum of investment formalities beginning with preinvestment counselling through post-sanction difficulties, secondly a simpler project application form has been evolved and the time limit for processing application has been fixed at 2 to 5 months from the date of receipt of the fully documented application forms. Similarly the limit for disbursement of an industrial loan by financing institutions required that first payment of loan may be made within two months from the date of sanction. Thirdly sanctioning powers of various investment sanctioning authorities have been enhanced as well as decentralised at regional and district levels.

To increase the flow of foreign investment both direct and in the form of joint ventures government has enacted a Foreign Private Investment (Promotion and Protection) Act. The Act ensures.

(i) Fair and equitable treatment of foreign private investment with full protection and security against non-business risks;

(ii) Terms of sanction permission or licence granted by Government to an industrial undertaking having foreign private investment shall not be unilaterally changed so as to adversely alter the conditions under which the establishment of such undertaking was sanctioned; nor shall foreign private investment be accorded a less favourable treatment than what is accorded to similar private investment by the citizens of Bangladesh in the application of relevant rules and regulations;

(iii) Fair and equitable treatment in respect to indemnification compensation liquidation etc in the event of losses of foreign investment due to civil disorder, subversion or riot;

(iv) Guarantee that foreign investment shall not be expropriated or nationalised except for a public purpose against prompt and just compensation in the currency of the country of origin;

(v) Guarantee full repatriation of capital investment including returns from it in the event of liquidation of an industrial undertaking.

The Agricultural Development Strategy, centres round achieving a level of 17.3 million tons of foodgrains production by 1984-85. The steps under way to achieve this objective are to double the irrigated area from 1.5 million hectares to 3.0 million hectares supported by measures for flood control covering an area of 12 million hectares and supply of credit and such vital inputs as improved seeds, fertilizers, insecticides etc.

Other measures include physical facilities to achieve efficiency in food-grains procurement storage milling marketing and transportation. As a part of overall strategy attention has been given to reorganisation of agro-supported services and institutions. Burdensome subsidies have either been eliminated or reduced to a bare minimum with price incentives taking its place. Government is examining implementation of land reform measures aimed at ensuring protection of share cropper's interest and minimum wage for landless labour. Efforts are being made to reduce dependence on imported equipment and use of high cost oil by tapping indigenous energy sources such as electricity and natural gas. Research is an important contributory factor in the drive towards higher productivity. A number of institutions are now engaged in applied research programmes in agriculture.

While agriculture is no doubt basic it is only the expansion of the industrial sector which can provide employment to our growing labour force produce the various consumer and Capital goods essential for a modern economy as well as contribute to the process of much needed diversification of our economy.

[27 Oct 83 p 3]

[Text] Following is the remaining part of the text of Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad's address to the members of US Chamber of Commerce at the Hall of Flags, on Monday. (Earlier parts published in our Wednesday issue):

It is a significant change in the investment policy initiative drive and energy of the individuals are now to be allowed much greater opportunity to contribute to socio-economic development. A large disinvestment programme including iron and textile mills has been undertaken. Domestic private entrepreneurs have been allowed access into the banking sector. Equally important has been the policy shift towards decentralisation and devolution of administration including development administration with a view to ensuring mass participation in development efforts.

A series of policy changes have been effected to improve investment climate and economic management. The important policy changes are:

(i) First nationalisation policy has given way to a policy of disinvestment of public enterprises.

(ii) Excessively investment ceiling to private investment has been withdrawn.

(iii) To encourage private sector and ensure its full opportunity for development establishment of commercial banks in the private sector has been allowed while two private banks nationalised earlier have been returned to their owners. Three private banks have already been set up under private ownership while the semi-private financial institution--International Finance and Investment Bank--has been permitted to undertake commercial banking.

(IV) Stock exchange at Dhaka has been recommissioned to promote private investment and the portfolio of the investment corporation has been strengthened.

(V) To promote industrial growth in the private investment an industrial promotion and development company has been set up in collaboration with a group of four international development agencies.

(VI) Fiscal and financial incentive structure has been strengthened to encourage local and foreign private investment. It includes import of machinery at concessional rates for less developed areas tax concession on account of export import entitlement national duty drawn back flexible exchange rate together with guarantee against exchange risk liberal credit etc.

(VII) Investment sanction procedures have been simplified while need for sanction in case of selffinanced projects except for hard loan has been discontinued.

In addition to the above a Foreign Investment Cell has been set up under the direct supervision of the head of government to expedite sanctioning foreign investment and to assist foreign investors. Similarly a Foreign Investors Courtesy Service has been introduced to extend facilities and courtesies to prospective foreign investors including arranging meetings with their local counterparts.

Foreign investors also enjoy a number of incentives which include:

(I) Full remittance of all post-tax profits and dividends on foreign capital investment.

(II) Remittance of 50 per cent of net salary per month of foreign nationals subject to approved ceiling.

(III) Remittance of approved royalties and technical fees and exemption from payment of taxes on royalties and technical know-how fees.

(IV) Relief from double taxation through bilateral agreements.

In respect of export-oriented industries additional incentives have been provided. These include

(I) Concessional rate of duty for import of capital machinery for export industries.

(II) Extension of up to 90 per cent of requirements of working capital as loan.

(III) Allocation of cash foreign exchange for import of capital machinery to deserving cases.

(IV) Entitlement of Export Performance Licence (XPL) to a large number of exportable items.

(V) Extensive facilities under export guarantee scheme

(VI) Income tax rebate varying from 30 to 50 per cent of tax attributable to export sales;

(VII) Provision for compensation against exchange rate fluctuation etc.

An export Processing Zone has been set up at the port city of Chittagong with essential physical and service facilities with a view to encourage setting up of export-oriented industries. Foreign investment to the extent of 100 per cent ownership is allowed in the zone and the industries set up there are allowed a number of incentives such as:

(A) Exemption of duties and taxes on import of machineries and spares semi-finished goods and raw materials into the Zone and export of goods produced in the Zone;

(B) A five year tax holiday regardless of the size of investment and the number of persons employed and after the expiry of initial five years a rebate of 50 per cent of income tax on export sales;

(C) Freedom for full repatriation of profits and capital;

(D) Employment of foreign technicians whenever required.

I should like to mention here that in spite of many known constraints Bangladesh enjoys a number of natural advantages conducive to investment. We have a vast pool of cheap and relatively trained and easily trainable labour force which permits industrial production at a comparatively low cost. Besides a large number of professionally qualified engineers accountants management and supervisory personnel technicians and skilled labours are readily available in the country. To meet both domestic and external demand the government has instituted training programmes for skill development in various trades and vocation.

Bangladesh has a number of known resources which can be readily exploited besides our eminent position in jute and jute goods, tea, leather, newsprint and paper, sugar and textile industries fisheries both sea and sweet water forestry particular mention may be made of our natural gas, limestone, hard rock and coal. The proven reserve of our gas is estimated to be about 10 trillion cft (TCF) and new fields are being added. Since only a small fraction of it is committed until now development of natural gas based industries and other energy resources promise profitable areas for foreign investment.

Attractive Policy

Bangladesh provides a fairly large internal market of about 70 million people. The horizon of the potential market for the products of Bangladesh, however extends beyond its borders as the country is located in the centre of the three most populous nations of the world namely India China and Indonesia. The fact we are in the centre of the mass of 700 million people of the South Asian region.

Industrial Revolution.

Many factors to a relatively large market combined with the attractive policy measures and facilities introduced by the government has widened the scope of further private investment in Bangladesh. The areas which should hold immediate promise for private investment in Bangladesh. The areas ration of development in the coastal belt of Bangladesh developed of various gas-based industries such as area fertilizer methanol and carbonblack leather industry based on our own large production of finished calf and goat skins lesser intensive industries such as garment making and electronics.

In conclusion let me underline that the government and the people of the United States have been generously contributing to our efforts at social and economic development for which we remain deeply grateful. As a supplement we also need direct American and other foreign investment as well as an expansion in trade in order to generate output income and employment to build a self-sustaining and viable Bangladesh. We do hope that you would respond positively in this regard on the basis of mutual benefit which would further strengthen and consolidate the sincere friendly relationship between Bangladesh and the United States.

Bangladesh Association Reception

Source: The Daily Star, Dhaka, in English 26 Oct 73 p 1

Dhaka, Oct 25 (UPI)—The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. Yahya Khan yesterday called upon the Bangladesh nationals living abroad to extend their cooperation to the efforts of the government and the people to build a better and prosperous new Bangladesh reports RSC.

Addressing a reception given in his honour by Bangladesh Association of America, Lt. Gen. Khan briefly explained various reformative measures undertaken by the government to improve the condition of the people.

He said a administrative and judicial systems of colonial era have been dismantled and steps in the interests of the common people. Similarly he said a judicial committee is being referred to make it work-oriented.

He said the government has also been brought about in industrial agriculture and other sectors. 'The nation has already started setting positive example in these measures' he said adding 'if you now in home you will see the fruits of government's benevolent policy'.

He said the government's determination to establish real democracy in the country has been well known and he has already announced election schedule for the national assembly, the provincial election and the elections to Parliament. He said the government will wait the revival of the now suspended constitution.

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Gen. Ershad concluded his speech by reciting a self-composed Bangla poem.
The English rendering of the poem is as follows:

A special offering
-H. M. Ershad

I have brought with me
A special offering for you,
Of love and good will,
And also bit of good news:
For you who live far away
From your country and homes
Away from your dear ones,
You, whose days
merge into nights,
Of ceaseless endeavour,
Dictated by the reality
Of earning a living.
The glad tidings
I bring you:
If you should return home
To your once-known hamlets,
Marked by the
flowering creepers,
Still echoing to the
walls of despair
You will find men walk
with new hope
Amidst the nearby
offices and courts
The new buildings.
The age-old fields
and river fronts,
The market places and
the bustling ports,
That remarkable and
swift changes
have been wrought in life.
Even now the floods,
droughts and summer storms
come and go.
With clock-work regularity,
But now the
dark till night
comes with the activity
of people at work.
We have taken an oath
to share their life,
You, too, will
have to share
their joys and sorrows

If not today,
then tomorrow
Or the dayafter.
When you return home
To your country
To the new land
Of a joyous Bangladesh.

The President of Bangladesh Association of Washington D.C. Dr Nurul Alam also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Gen. Ershad gave a television interview here.

26 Oct Press Club Breakfast

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] WASHINGTON Oct. 26:--The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen. H. M. Ershad said here today that the presidential election in Bangladesh will be held some time in the middle of the next year on the basis of the new suspended constitution reports BSS.

Speaking at the News Makers Breakfast given in his honour by the U.S. National Press Club the CMLA said, "After that as per the constitution we will go for parliamentary elections and thereby real democracy will be established in the country".

He said the Government has already announced elections schedules for the local bodies which will begin from the end of this year and will be completed by March next year.

Referring to the democratic process initiated by the present Government Gen. Ershad said "Our democracy will be people's democracy where people's democracy there people will have share in the running of the government.

The CMLA briefly explained various development programmes and reformative measures being undertaken by the present Government to improve the lot of the common people and said "We have already started getting positive dividends as a result of these measures."

He said the Government has already decentralised the administrative and the judicial systems introduced work-oriented education system and announced a drug policy banning unnecessary medicines. We have also taken up positive steps for the improvement of agriculture sector and all other sectors of economy in the country.

Referring to the new industrial and investment policies adopted by the present Government Gen. Ershad said it has been encouraging private sector investment and protecting the interest of foreign investors.

He expressed his appreciation for the continued U.S. assistance in the development efforts of Bangladesh.

"To want to stand on our own feet we also want that Bangladesh and the United States of America become the partners in progress" he added.

Replying to a question the CMIA said the elections will positively be held in different tiers according to the election schedule announced by the Government.

Replying to another question he said there is a great prospect of getting oil in Bangladesh. He said we could not make much headway in drilling of oil due to our limited resources. 'We are looking forward to our friends to help us in the exploration of oil and mineral resources' he added.

Gen. Arshad told another questioner that the South Asian regional cooperation was initiated by Bangladesh and an action programme for cooperation among the member countries had already been launched at the last Foreign Ministers' conference of the SARE.

When asked to comment on the situation in Grenada he said 'We are still studying the situation'. He hoped that peace will be returned to the Caribbean shortly.

Talks With Reagan

These are BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Oct '73 p 1

[Dhaka] WASHINGTON, Oct. 26: We are greatly impressed by what you have done to put Bangladesh on a firm footing in so short a time', this was stated by President Ronald Reagan when and the Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Arshad, met formally at the Oval Office of the White House yesterday for the first time, reports BBC.

On the formal meeting at the Oval Office the US President was assisted by: the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr Kenneth W. Dan, the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr David L. Schneider, the US Ambassador to Bangladesh Mrs. Jane A. Olson, the National Security Adviser, Mr Robert McFarlane, the White House Chief of Staff, Mr. Edwin Meese and Assistant Adviser of National Security Office, Mr. Geoffrey Kemp.

The CMIA was assisted by Foreign Minister Mr A. F. M. Bolla, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Religious Affairs, Mr. Mubabur Rahman and Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mr H. U. Chowdhury.

Major General V. A. Christl, General Staff to CMIA, Mr H. Syeduzzaman, Finance Secretary, Mr. Sholar Mustafa, Health Secretary and Ambassador Abdul Hosen Chowdhury joined them at the lunch.

The lunch was followed by official statements by the two leaders in the East Room of White House in the presence of a large contingent of newsmen.

During the talks, the two leaders covered a wide range of subjects including bilateral, regional and international issues. The CIA gave a detailed account of the various measures adopted by his administration in the economic and social fields and the steps which his government was taking to introduce democracy in line with local government elections this winter.

The US President evinced keen interest in the Bangladeshi private sector and expressed it for the results which have been achieved. The US President also said that he knew of no other country which made such an intelligent use of food assistance as Bangladesh is doing under the Food for World Programme.

The President and the CIA also discussed at length the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) in which the US President evinced keen interest. They also discussed Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

The US President availed of this opportunity to explain to the CIA the events which led to the intervention of US troops in Grenada a few hours before the meeting and also the recent tragic events in Beirut. President Reagan further explained in detail his policy in central America.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of the utmost cordiality. The CIA returned a verbal invitation to the US President to visit Bangladesh which the US President accepted with pleasure.

Statement at White House

WASH. DC. (AP) — President Ronald Reagan said today that he was pleased to meet with the CIA.

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our two countries shared perceptions and close identity of interest in strengthening the process of peace, progress and prosperity for mankind.

I have apprised the President of the intensive development activity which my Government has undertaken to improve the quality of life of our 95 million people, a large majority of whom live in rural Bangladesh. I have explained that my Government is committed to laying firm political and economic foundations for long term development and social benefits for our people. We have already undertaken significant measures in the fields of population control, food production, rural unemployment and energy production. This has involved the reorganisation and decentralisation of our administration, the streamlining of our judiciary and extensive work aimed at reviewing colonial laws on the one hand and our outdated education system on the other.

We hope Sir that these basic inputs will substantially reinforce the base we must have for the restoration and maintenance of democratic values which are inherent to our society. We are about to launch ourselves into local government elections this Winter followed by elections at progressively higher political echelons throughout 1984 leading to elections to our parliament in April 1985. Over 40 million people will go to the polls not merely to elect their representatives, Sir but to lay the political and economic foundation for our future to enable our people to live freely and to live with honour and dignity in the grace of God.

The President and I have agreed to explore possible ways and means towards further strengthening the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. Indeed I am most grateful to you Sir for the deep and abiding interest you have personally shown in the welfare and progress of our people and for the moral support and economic assistance which have been forthcoming from you.

As a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference the Non-aligned Movement and the Commonwealth and till recently as Chairman of the Group-77 Bangladesh firmly believes that the current international economic situation needs the concerted will of the whole community of nations to recognising that inter-dependability is indispensable as a way of life in this day and age. The policy of the United States is a crucial and critical one in this regard and it is indeed a matter of great satisfaction that the President and I in discussing these issues fully agreed that global peace and stability is essential interlinking with the need to restore confidence in the current economic relations of both developing and developed countries.

We would also deeply appreciate the important and vital role of the United Nations in upholding the principles of maintaining peace and stability in the world as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and particularly our recent unanimous statement at the United Nations General Assembly in 1983 to that effect.

I would like to mention here that I have conveyed to the President my sincere sympathy and condolence at the tragic loss of life in the recent earthquake in Bangladesh.

We share your grief and on behalf of my government and our people extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.

My wife and I have been deeply touched by the overwhelming hospitality extended to us and the members of our delegation. Our stay in the US capital the beautiful city of Washington though short has been most pleasant and rewarding. I have no doubt that I speak on behalf of all of us when I say that we shall treasure these happy moments and cherish the memory of your warm friendship.

During our meeting, I have extended our most cordial invitation to the President to pay a state visit to Bangladesh as early as it is convenient. It is my sincere hope that you will visit our country soon and see for yourself the high esteem in which you are held and the enormous fund of goodwill that exists in Bangladesh for your people.

Mr. President I wish you good health happiness long life and every success and I thank you ladies and gentlemen of the media for your time and patience.

Positive Impact Seen

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Oct 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Bangladesh-US Cooperation"]

[Text] Bangladesh is expected to receive continued economic support in her efforts at development from the United States. This was indicated by President Ronald Reagan in course of his formal talks with the CMA, Lt. General H. M. Ershad in the Oval Office of the U.S. President. He appreciated the dedication with which the present government of Bangladesh has been working for the improvement of the economic conditions in the country. He also hoped that the pragmatic and constructive policies of General Ershad will lead to improvement in the conditions of life of the people of Bangladesh. President Reagan also praised the role played by Bangladesh in the formation of the South Asian Forum.

The two leaders surveyed the regional and international issues of common concern. The American President appreciated the role played by Bangladesh in upholding the cause of the people of Kampuchea and Afghanistan. He complimented Bangladesh for the moderation in the pursuit of foreign policy. The President also recalled the long association of America in the efforts of Bangladesh in the field of economic development and surmised that the same will continue in future. His assurance may prove to be inalienable largely because of the policy changes that have been initiated by the present government of Bangladesh.

In this connection it is worth mentioning that the CMA in his address before the US Chamber of Commerce underscored the improvements in the investment climate in Bangladesh. The changes in the policy towards private investment--either direct by foreign investors or through joint ventures--are likely to

increase the inflow of capital in the country. And such capital will not only be using the cheap but effective labour and management personnel but also the huge natural resources in the country. The upcoming export processing zone in the port city of Chittagong will also prove to be an incentive for investors from abroad, specially from the U.S.A.

As it is, Bangladesh has considerable reserve of gas. Some minerals are yet to be explored and exploited. The traditional products like jute, tea, leather, sugar, fisheries, forestry and even sweet water may be put to newer use if capital is available from private investors. The relatively larger list of investment items is expected to draw more investors. And such investors have guarantees against nationalisation and expropriation, except for public purpose with adequate compensation. Private investment from foreign sources are put on similar footing as that of local investors. Equal guarantees, tax rebates and incentives will be awarded to them in future as well.

It has been asserted by the CIAA that the prospect of investment in petro-chemical industries is bright. Systems and procedures have been simplified, with a view to attracting more of investors. The pointed reference to political stability through restoration of democracy in the near future goes well with the overall investment climate. The scope of earning adequate return on investment is therefore very wide and the ready market within the country, as well as in the region, should work as additional incentive to investors. That being so, the reciprocity with which General Ershad and President Reagan exchanged views is bound to have positive impact on the investment scene in Bangladesh. We share the views of the leadership in both these friendly countries and look forward to having what is called, partnership in progress. Bangladesh needs it as a priority and the continuity of aid and investment is needed for building a self-sustaining and viable Bangladesh.

'New Image Abroad'

Quota THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Oct 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Reagan-Ershad Meet"]

[Text] The summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad on Tuesday has been epochal in the growth of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. Sharing, as the American and Bangladesh people do, a common dream of a world without conflict and tension, the two leaders were able to reach a greater degree of accord and understanding between them on the international issues that confront the world. The American people and their leaders with their history of building a new country on a novel concept and on a virgin soil can fully realise the difficulties that the Bangladesh people faced while reconstructing their motherland on the ruins of centuries of colonial exploitation and the ashes of a devastating war.

President Reagan during his meeting with Gen. Ershad has lauded the courage of the Bangladesh nation in working for a better life against tremendous odds

and appreciated the efforts of the government in vigorously pursuing a policy of growth and development. The U.S. has been among the largest contributors to the financial resources which had helped in the reconstruction of the country, the rehabilitation of the people after the war and the continuous growth of the economy following the reconstruction. The U.S. President has stressed anew during his talks with Gen. Ershad that his country would continue its unreserved support to Bangladesh's efforts in achieving self-reliance.

The government's open door investment policy has been widely appreciated by both the American government and the potential private investors in the U.S. Gen. Ershad was able to impress upon the members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the officials of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation about the existing congenial climate for foreign investment in Bangladesh and the special benefits which could be obtained from such investment. The Protection of Foreign Private Investment Act enacted by the government recently gives clear guarantees of security to the foreign investors and the repatriation of legitimate profits. The country also offers a reasonably skilled labour at lower than competitive prices and a potential work force which can be trained within a short time for advanced industrial work. With a government and a people eager to invite foreign investment and a people eager to invite foreign investment, potential foreign entrepreneurs should not be hesitant about coming to Bangladesh.

The Reagan-Ershad talks also dwelled on major regional and bilateral matters. The two leaders expressed a common concern for peace and stability and a desire to contribute to all efforts at building a proper climate for endeavouring for the welfare of all peoples. The Bangladesh initiative in forming a South Asian regional cooperation framework has been particularly noted with appreciation in the White House and in political circles in the U.S.

In whichever forum in the U.S. Gen. Ershad spoke, he was able to generate an increasing confidence among all in the progress achieved by the country so far and in the potentials for further growth that it certainly has. The former U.S. Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim speaking on behalf of industrialists and businessmen in the U.S. emphasised that Bangladesh had gained a momentum for growth and would be able to move into the "forefront of development and progress".

The new administrative measures that the government has taken to effectively decentralise the system of administration, making a radical departure from what had been followed in the past, has also generated a lot of interest abroad. What has been particularly appreciated is the sincere drive to bring in a wider participation of the people in the system of government and the empowering of the local leadership with administrative and development responsibilities. President Reagan has pointed out that Gen. Ershad has "set in motion some process for socio-economic development".

Apparently, the country's vigorous efforts at achieving self-reliance has earned for itself a new image abroad. It is upon the entire nation now to work even harder than before to achieve the desired goals. We have reached a

take-off stage in many sectors of the economy and it would be necessary not only to sustain and improve further on what has been already gained but also to make stronger efforts in other areas where greater thrust is still necessary.

Obviously, we will need stability at home to ensure an unhindered economic growth. The government has initiated a process for the restoration of democracy in the country and it would be against national interest if this process is endangered in any way by irresponsible acts. The government's plans for democratic restoration has already earned appreciation at home and abroad.

Gen. Ershad has called upon Bangladeshis abroad to contribute to this process of stability and growth by their sincere efforts. We are certain that there are many friends around the world who are willing to be our partners in progress.

'Compliment From Friendly Country'

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Oct 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Bangla-US Accord"]

[Text] The Bangladesh accord signed in Washington on Wednesday comes as a compliment from a friendly country to our continuing success with rice and wheat production. The US\$65 million aid in long term soft-interest credit constitutes an amended, significant part, coinciding with the visit of CIA Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad to USA of the three-year US programme of a total of nearly 200 million US dollar worth of commodities pledged to us in March 1982. The significance of the latest American gesture lies in its compatibility with our present need for commodities and its relevance to our development programme.

Food production forms the central part of our development strategy. Basing on current achievements on this front which are manifest in record production of food surpassing all previous levels, we are now in the midst of an earnest endeavour to reach food self-sufficiency in five years' time. The reasons for the centre-piece role of food in our development affairs are easy to identify. Cereal production involves a great majority of our farmers and the costs at which they get the output and the price at which they sell it influence their standard of life and that of the people of the country. The inclusions of vegetable oil and cotton in commodity aid has a bearing on the standard of life too. And in the ultimate economic sense, any lower food output would affect our capacity to undertake development activities on a required scale.

The present package of US aid will benefit us on the food front specially and that in certain direct and indirect ways. The increase in the food stock presaged by the commodity assistance would strengthen our hands to maintain stable market conditions which eventually may encourage the farmers to produce more food. Besides, the food for work programme is complementary to our rural

uplift efforts through greater agricultural productivity. The bridges, culverts and communication links which the FWP helps to set up or put in action go a long way towards enormously backing up food production and distribution. The process of intra structure building has no doubt registered its contribution to the current successes in cereal production. This is in addition to feeding unemployed people and giving them a role in national development efforts. And the big way in which it is being launched in the current fiscal year will enable us to stimulate economic development.

CSO: 4600/1214

PUNISHABLE OFFENCES UNDER MARTIAL LAW NOTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESHI TIMES in English 26 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] MLR 15: Penalty for criticising Martial Law. Whoever by word, either spoken or written, or by signs or visible representation or otherwise criticises the imposition, operation or continuance of Martial Law or brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Chief Martial Law Administrator or any Zonal Martial Law Administrator, or any other Martial Law Authority shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

MLR 16: Penalty for creating panic, fear etc. Whoever by any means spreads reports calculated to create panic, fear or alarm or despondency shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

MLR 17: Penalty for prejudicial acts. (1) Whoever does any prejudicial act, or makes, prints, publishes, possesses or distributes any document containing or spreads by any other means whatsoever, any prejudicial report, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine or to suffer confiscation of the whole or any part of his property.

MLR 19: Penalty for mischief by fire or explosive substance etc. Whoever, with intent to cause, or knowing that he is likely to cause, wrongful loss or damage to the government or to any statutory corporation, body or authority or to any company or firm or to any person, causes, or attempts to cause, by fire or any explosive substance the destruction of any goods, grains, raw materials, warehouses, godowns, mills, factories, or any such charge therein as destroys or diminishes its value or utility, shall be punishable with death, or with transportation for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to fourteen years and shall further be liable to fine or to suffer confiscation of the whole or any part of his property.

CSO: 4600/1215

SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FOR EQUIPPING '20-MILLION STRONG' ARMY

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 29 Sep 83 p 2

[Interview with Mohammad Salimi, minister of defense; date and place not specified]

[Text] With the efforts of the devout and creative personnel of the Ministry of Defense in the department of industrial research and development, which is extremely important for ending dependency, the project for reopening production of the Phoenix missile system, radar systems like the Hawk defensive system, expensive radar scopes and semi-industrial TNT has been accomplished for the first time in Iran.

On the occasion of the war week, Colonel Salimi, the minister of defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a special interview with the IRNA reporter, defined armament policy and the technological improvements in the field of armaments.

About the armament policy of the Islamic Republic, he said: "The armament policy of the Islamic Republic is derived from the Holy Koran and is moving to utilize existing possibilities and towards making the Islamic Republic a great power in the region." He emphasized: "Certainly, the aim of being a great power does not necessarily mean being expansionist but to neutralize and prevent occurrences and activities which threaten the Islamic revolution and to clear the minds of our enemies from expansionist ideas towards the Islamic Republic. Certainly, total defense policy is crystallized in the nation's Imam's command. The Ministry of Defense is in charge of equipping and operating a 20-million-strong army with sophisticated weapons."

Then the minister of defense explained the domestic production of the weapons and ammunition at a level that will cover the needs of the war fronts. About the role of the Ministry of Defense in the imposed war he said: "Equipped and strong groups of armament industries, mechanics, aircraft, electronic research and development, missiles and the naval industries of the Ministry of Defense play a tremendous role in equipping the war fronts. In regard to weapons industries, the devout personnel have taken a great step towards self-reliance by restarting three lines of heavy and light ammunition, two lines of mortar production, the project for building and starting the final stage of manufacturing J-3 guns, and repairing two kinds of missiles--Katusha and RPG7--and anti-personnel grenades.

"In the mechanical industries group, during the war, in addition to daily routine work, the devout personnel, by building field kitchens and restarting the manufacture of armored trucks, have secured the required needs for the armored trucks.

"Also, with the operating Nour battery factories and production of 2.4 million batteries, domestic needs have been met, and in addition, some quantity has also been exported.

"In telecommunications and electronic industries group, with the efforts of personnel, different kinds of IC and tanks and gunnery fire control systems are manufactured."

He added: "In the aircraft industries group, interesting work such as planning and manufacturing of sensitive parts for aircraft assembly of some of the weapons like grenade launchers, cannon, missile equipped helicopters, which increases their potential, and F14 brakes have been reconstructed. In the opinion of the experts, these products are cheaper and more efficient than the originals.

"In the industrial research and development division which is very important and plays a great part in ending very sensitive dependencies, they are maintaining the project for reconstruction of some of the missile assembly plants for aircraft, among them Phoenix missiles. In regard to radar systems like the Hawk defense system and the project for production of expensive radar scopes, they are executed for the first time in the country. The project for semi-industrial production of TNT has been accomplished by the workers."

In his interview he mentioned his appreciation for the efforts of the researchers who have been able to produce this sophisticated technology through their intelligence. He asked his countrymen to continue their cooperation in planning and invention in the field of defensive industries and to give their information to the organization.

He added: "In regard to supplies, Eteka has vast activities. It provides all the clothing and food supplies of the armed forces at the war front. The Eteka organization stores also provide for the needs of over 1.7 million families of military personnel in the farthest regions of Iran."

In regard to the executed projects and the projects in the process of execution in the industries and organizations of the Ministry of Defense he said: "The plants of the industrial organizations, due to the will of the responsible authorities, are expanding every day, and after the start of the war in spite of the economic boycott and the needs of the fronts, several new productive lines have been started and postponed projects have been restarted. Among them, the plant for extraction of needed lead from dead batteries. The other project in this stage of execution are shells which are called, 'Teyr al-Quds' which can be fired from any rifle and are able to destroy half a platoon." He emphasized that with the execution of this project, the range of the ordinary rifle will be increased tremendously.

He expressed hope that with the efforts of the devout employees, the semi-finished projects will be completed soon. He referred to the extensive presence of personnel of the Ministry of Defense at the imposed war fronts and said: "The noble employees of the Ministry of Defense consider the factories as their entrenchment and when they build a grenade they think of themselves as the thrower of that grenade."

He added: "Up to now, over 4,500 of the personnel of the Ministry of Defense have been dispatched to the war fronts and from this number, several have been martyred, wounded or disabled. Leading this list are martyr Chamran, martyr Namju, and martyr Fakuri, to whom the Ministry of Defense is indebted for their services and all efforts at present are pledged to these great martyrs who lost their lives to play God."

The minister of defense in response to the question "How do you see the future of this imposed war?" said: "The future of the war is as clear as the sun, and throughout the war front, the clear outlook indicates the victory of Islam's warriors. After the activities of Al-fajr 2 and 3, the strategic regions were freed from the enemy's hand and the maneuverability of the enemy was decreased perceptively. At present, the army of the Iraqi Ba'th have become remarkably astray and confused. God willing, with the efforts of the combatants, we will have the last word with Saddam in the battlefield."

In the continuation of his interview, he analyzed the armament situation of the enemy and said: "The armament supply of the enemy depends on eastern and western aid. Certainly, the world oppressors think by equipping Iraq with sophisticated weapons, they will be able to protect Saddam. Whereas we believe that the survival of a regime does not depend on weapons and equipment. The victory of an army depends on the morale and faith of its combatants. Today the Iraqi forces know they are fighting in order to fulfill the empty aims of Saddam."

He added: "Today the big nations of the world have an important role in equipping Saddam. Certainly they want Saddam, not peace. We proposed to them if they want to restore peace in the region, they must stop their military aid to Saddam."

"In addition to the superpowers' aid to Saddam, some of the neighbors of the southern Persian Gulf also help Saddam immensely." He emphasized: "We have detailed figures and statistics of the aid of neighboring Persian Gulf states to Saddam at our disposal and whenever we decide we could repress this aid. But so far we have waited for the interests of the region. These neighbors must realize that our patience is limited and in these last days of Saddam's life, they must not thicken their files and oblige us to present the statistics of their armaments aid to their nations."

At the conclusion he declared that the armament sources and needs of the Islamic homeland are secured from the strong arms of the workers and the spoils acquired from the Ba'thist mercenaries.

DEMAND FOR PAKISTAN CONFEDERATION ASSESSED, REJECTED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 18 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Prof Dr Hafizur Rahman Siddiqi: "Parity or Confederation--An Analysis"]

[Excerpts] Well-known educator Prof Ghulam Mustafa Shah made a statement to the press that was published in the newspaper JANG of Karachi on 5 September. He said: "Sind and Pakistan's other small provinces want the March 1940 Pakistan Resolution that calls for the federation of free and autonomous provinces to be carried out completely and honestly... We want Punjab to act voluntarily on the 'parity' principle. We want the four provinces to have complete parity in the federal government and all its institutions."

Before discussing Prof Ghulam Mustafa Shah's demands, it is necessary to explain in simple terms what his statement means.

The learned educator wants Pakistan, which is now a state composed of four provinces with the status of a federation, to be divided into four separate states that would come together to form a confederation.

The principle of parity as demanded by such a confederation would be observed in forming the government; the four provinces would share equally in the ministries, in government jobs, in central aid to the provinces, in the military--in short, in everything.

Such a confederation does not exist in any of the 150 countries of the world. Yes, such a confederation was established twice, in the 1960's when Egypt and Syria formed a confederation and again in the 1970's when Libya and Egypt tried it. But everyone knows that these confederations proved impractical; they lasted only a few months and after they broke up, relations between the two countries did not return to preconfederation conditions but changed to enmity, which has lasted to the present day.

Before discussing the plan attributed to the Pakistan Resolution, it would not be irrelevant to ask Mr Shah this question: If Pakistan had not been formed and if its existing provinces had remained an integral part of an undivided India, would anyone in these 4 provinces have dared to suggest that the single state of India, with its 11 provinces, be divided into 11 states and made into a confederation or demanded, in Mr Shah's words, parity among the states?

Recently, the Sikhs demanded a separate state, Khalistan, for themselves, but we all saw how mercilessly the Indian Government crushed this movement, even though it had the open blessing of the United States. The call to break up or weaken a country, even when made by the citizens of a democracy, deserves to be crushed just as the Khalistan movement was, because even democratic freedom has certain limits. Democracy does not confer unbridled freedom on anyone. It is sheer misfortune that at a time when our beloved country needs internal strength, some members of this Muslim nation are seeking to profit from its weakness.

Up to now, Muslims of the subcontinent thought that the Lahore Resolution signified a single Pakistan. During the 1946 elections held in all the provinces of India, in which the Muslim League participated on the basis of its demand for Pakistan, Muslims the length and breadth of India understood that demand to mean the establishment of a single Pakistan. It was for the sake of this single Pakistan that the Muslims of such provinces as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, C.P. [Central Province], Bombay, Madras, etc., who could not join the desired Pakistan, voted for the Muslim League. G.M. Sayed and the Sind Muslim League also inferred the same meaning from the Lahore Resolution. In its meeting held earlier in Karachi, on 10 October 1938, the Sind Muslim League agreed upon a federation for the Muslims of the subcontinent (see "Pakistan Stage by Stage," p 194). Zulfikar Ali Bhutto also understood the resolution to signify a single state; hence, he wrote in his book "The Great Tragedy," on page 1: "We will begin with 1940 when, on 23 March, the Muslims of India, under the leadership of Quaid-e Azam, demanded a separate Muslim state of Pakistan. The concept of such a state was formulated by Maulavi Fazlul Haq, the Lion of Bengal, in a resolution called the Lahore Resolution. A few years later, as a result of the growing conflict between the two parts of the country, a bitter argument began anew about the Lahore Resolution. In 1966 Shaikh Mujibur Rahman, and later Maulana Bhashani, claimed that the Lahore Resolution included the demand for two Muslim states, one in the east and the other in the west. This is not an honest interpretation or analysis of the resolution. From the inception of Pakistan until 1966, no one had seriously suggested this interpretation for the Lahore Resolution."

In this statement, Mr Bhutto not only refuted Mujibur Rahman's erroneous interpretation of the Lahore Resolution, but also, in January 1966, 19 years after the creation of Pakistan, when Shaikh Mujibur Rahman offered his ridiculous interpretation of the Lahore Resolution, Bhutto offered to debate him in public on the subject. It is quite another matter that after East Pakistan's separation, Bhutto adopted Mujibur Rahman's interpretation on the basis of political expediency and even tried to convince his countrymen that this reading of the resolution was correct.

In short, the facts notwithstanding, Shaikh Mujibur Rahman tried to use the text of the Lahore Resolution as a constitutional document even though from 23 March 1940 to 14 August 1947 the Muslim League had clarified the text and its meaning that gained the support of Muslims through the length and breadth of the subcontinent, from Assam to Sind. To try to infer a new meaning from the Lahore Resolution and this time to interpret it as advocating a division into four states is as advocating a division into four states is as far-fetched an interpretation as Mujibur Rahman's.

Anyway, Prof Ghulam Mustafa Shah's demand is not really aimed at expressing his allegiance to the Lahore Resolution; his real objective is to establish the principle of parity among the provinces, which in political terminology is called a confederation. The demand that the terms of the Lahore Resolution be carried out is made merely to provide a legal justification for establishing the principle of parity.

The concept of parity was also presented a short time before Mr Shah's statement by the tribal leader of Baluchistan, Nawab Akbar Bugti. He based his view on the concept of existing regional nationalities. If Mr Bugti's concept of nationality is accepted as the political basis for establishing provinces, every country in the world would have to be cut up into pieces because not a single country exists today where the population is composed of only one nationality. It would seem that the era of the city states, when each state was forever quarreling with its neighbors, would have to return.

In any case, since the concept of changing a federation into a confederation is hidden behind the innocent word "parity," used both by Prof Ghulam Mustafa Shah and Akbar Bugti in their demands, and as it was necessary to discuss whether any justification could be found for Mr Shah's proposed confederation in the Lahore Resolution, it appears necessary now to analyze Mr Akbar Bugti's concept of nationality. In recent times, even before Mr Bugti's demand, the concept of nationality was advocated in certain countries but was never accepted. The Kurds of Mosul have been making this demand for many years, and for a time they received financial help from a neighboring country, but whenever the movement gathered strength, it was crushed mercilessly by the Iraqi Government, and each time its leader, Mulla Mustafa Barzani, suffered abject defeat. The movement caused an additional setback to the Kurds in that they were never able to enjoy urban life and always had to remain in hiding. A similar demand was made by Iranian Kurds as well, but they were always crushed by the Iranian Government. Even during its war with Iraq, the Iranian Government has not weakened its stand. The Baluchis of Iran also support this concept of a separate nationality. They have an additional argument in favor of a separate state for themselves in that they follow a different religious tradition. But the Iranian Government never considered this argument worthy of attention. The agitation for independence has been continuing in Ireland over many years but whenever it gathers strength, the British Government, for all its love of democracy, crushes it by force of arms. The people of Biafra demanded a regional state in Nigeria; their demand was also put down by force. The movement for Nagaland has been active for many years in India, but the Indian Government has used force to crush their every effort.

Has any country in the world consented to have itself divided into several pieces on the basis of regional nationality that Pakistan should now be expected to allow such a thing to happen?

It is interesting to note that those who demand parity claim that this scheme will strengthen the country, when the fact is that by replacing the federation with a confederation, the only links left among the four provinces would be the roads and the railroad tracks; all other links would be severed forever.

Such a step would of course bring about the disintegration of the country; after some time, the provinces also would begin to break apart because Pakistan's provinces are inhabited by more than one nationality. For example, it is as clear as day that Pathan as well as Baluchi nationalities live in Baluchistan. The demand that the cities of Quetta, Zhob and Loralai be separated from Baluchistan and formed into a new province has already been conceived by racism in an embryonic shape and openly expressed by the Pathan leader of Baluchistan, Abdul Samad Khan Achkzai. Once the confederation is formed, Pathan racism will raise the demand for the establishment of this province.

There are innumerable nationalities in Sind and each wants a separate province; the demand for a Karachi province has been heard for a long time. After Pakistan becomes a confederation, who will be able to prevent the establishment of a separate Karachi province?

In short, the formation of a confederation will give rise to so many problems that not even an Aladdin's lamp will be able to solve them. The country will be locked in a dead end, with no way out.

Since the dangers of confederation are so obvious that they can be foreseen already, how can the demand for confederation be regarded as worthy of consideration?

The fact to remember is that though it may appear easy to demand that a federation be changed into a confederation, it is not so easy to have the demand accepted. Any campaign that is started with the aim of having such a demand accepted would have to wade through blood to reach its objective and even then the goal sometimes proves unattainable; and the leaders of the campaign themselves are lost in the river of blood.

At any rate, having expounded the evils and losses hidden in the demand for confederation, I would like in conclusion to ask Prof Ghulam Mustafa Shah to give serious consideration to the fact that this country was made for you gentlemen, namely, the Muslims of Sind, Baluchistan, Punjab, the North West Frontier Province and Bengal. The part played by the Muslims of India in creating this country and the sacrifices they made were all for the sake of you gentlemen, for the Indian Muslims themselves derived no benefit.

It is beside the point that only a few hundred thousand of the millions of Muslims in India emigrated to this country and sought refuge here. The Muslims of Pakistan's provinces should have protected this God-given blessing with all their might and tried to strengthen and unify the country. But ever since Pakistan was founded, some people in each province have tried to weaken the country. When East Pakistan separated, it was called a geographical reality. What justification can there be for separating the existing four provinces that are linked together economically and socially or taking action to weaken their mutual relations? If such efforts should, God forbid, injure the country in any way, how will you be able to remedy the harm?

When recommending any political prescription for your country, do not ignore the fact that this country was the result of the very sincere and selfless efforts and sacrifices of all the Muslims of the subcontinent, the country was not created for the personal interests of any particular class. You may have heard now, in 1946, Sardar Abdul Rab Nishtar arrived at the Muslim League conference being held in Allahabad and was surprised to see how enthusiastically the Indian Muslims supported the demand for Pakistan. He asked the audience if they knew what provinces would be included in Pakistan. The audience replied that they knew well what provinces would constitute Pakistan and they were fully aware that as a consequence of having established Pakistan they would fall victim to the vengeance and cruelty of the Hindus. The future proved them right. As soon as Pakistan was founded, the blood of Muslims flowed in Delhi, East Punjab and else here. The Muslims have created this country for you at the cost of their own blood. In what direction are you pushing this country now?

9263

CSO: 4636/04

SENIOR PPP OFFICIAL DISCUSSES SIND SITUATION, MRD CAMPAIGN

Karachi JANG in Urdu 22 Sep 83 pp 6, 7

[Interview with Makhdoom Mohammad Talibul Moula, central vice chairman of the defunct People's Party and spiritual leader of the Sarwari group, by JANG correspondent in Hala; date not specified]

[Excerpt:] Makhdoom Mohammad Zaman Talibul Moula of Hala occupies an important spiritual see in Sind, second only in size to that of Pir Sayyed Abdul Qadir Jilani, Pir of Ranipur. Makhdoom Talibul Moula is the central vice chairman of the defunct People's Party [PPP] and spiritual leader of the Sarwari sect. His spiritual see is called the see of 900,000 because the number of his followers [mureed] in Sind as well as inside and outside the country is said to number 900,000. He is preoccupied nowadays with the MRD campaign to restore democracy. Since almost the entire leadership of MRD in Sind is under arrest or has gone underground, Makhdoom Talibul Moula's personality has become a source of strength for MRD members as well as parties outside the MRD. Political leaders outside the MRD maintain that the presence of a courageous, moderate and serious individual such as Makhdoom Talibul Moula prevents the MRD campaign from falling into the hands of separatists. His personality represents power, strength, purpose and action to the MRD members, and because of his personality, they can proceed on their correct course without fear or danger. His influence on the movement can be judged from the fact that at a signal from him, thousands of local councilors took back their papers of candidacy and thousands of others have resigned their jobs. At the present time, the number of positions with candidates contesting for them in the municipal elections comprise barely 25 percent of all municipal posts in Sind.

[Question] The leader of the defunct Jamiatul-e Ulema-e Pakistan, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, and other leaders of the Jamiat met with you the other day. Maulana Noorani's statements following the meeting gave the impression that you are ready to negotiate with the government.

[Answer] I am not ready to negotiate nor did I say anything to that effect during the meeting; only the leaders of the MRD, who are at present under house arrest, have the power to negotiate. These are Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Makhdoom Khaliqui Zaman, Khawja Khairuddin and Sardar Sherbaz Mazari. The government should negotiate with them.

[Question] But they have refused to negotiate.

[Answer] Yes. They have presented four points; if the government accepts them, the opportunity to negotiate may open up.

[Question] Under present conditions, do you not think that negotiations should be started immediately?

[Answer] Negotiations are needed, but it would be desirable to hold them in accordance with MRD principles. In that way, suspicions would be dispelled and the talks could be held in an open and unclouded atmosphere. The four MRD points are after all not wrong and contrary to principle; why then is there such reluctance to accept them?

[Question] Is there any alternative suggestion for starting negotiations?

[Answer] There is no need for one; I think efforts to start talks have already begun, as the statements of Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur and several other ministers indicate. President Zia has also said that elections could be held even before the expiration of the 18-month period. This means that he is considering ways to improve the situation.

[Question] The release of more than 1,000 political prisoners in Sind and Punjab--has any progress been made in this direction?

[Answer] Nothing will be gained merely by the release of political prisoners. As long as consciences are not clear and conditions are not agreed upon, these same people could offer themselves for arrest.

[Question] Is not the release of political prisoners a gesture of goodwill by the government?

[Answer] I do not know why they were released and whether their release was unconditional, under certain stipulations, or whether they were thrust outside because the jails were full. I do not yet know the background to this.

[Question] Has the federal minister of state, Mahmud Ali, or any other government representative contacted you?

[Answer] No contacts have been made; I do not know how the rumor started. No one has contacted me either by telephone or by letter.

[Question] Can the movement be called democratic when its influence is limited to the particular area of Sind?

[Answer] You do not think the movement is democratic?

[Question] A certain circle is of the opinion that since the campaign's influence is limited to three districts in Sind--Dadu, Nawab Shah and Khaipur--and to Hala, the movement is not democratic.

[Answer] The present movement is definitely aimed at restoring democracy. But why are the other three provinces silent? What are the reasons for this? I do not know, but people are offering themselves for arrest there and processions are being held in Punjab as well. Opponents are spreading the propaganda that the movement is a separatist one; this is entirely false. The movement is democratic and MRD members are making sacrifices solely to restore democracy--great sacrifices in some places and small sacrifices in others.

[Question] The true objective of the movement, then, is to restore democracy in the country?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] Most of Punjab's former senators, ministers and members of the assembly are outside the country; this is considered to explain the weakness of the campaign in Punjab. As the acting leader of the party, would you advise them to return?

[Answer] Yes, they are returning and some have even been arrested. They are returning with the intention of participating in the campaign. But the manner of their return is such that the government learns of their intention beforehand. Party officials outside the country should give the matter their attention.

[Question] Why have you decided to hold meetings, processions and strikes in Hala on Tuesday?

[Answer] Not only here but in other parts of Sind as well processions and meetings will be held on that day.

[Question] The statements of the Indian prime minister, foreign minister and other Indian leaders have led some to believe that the Sind campaign enjoys Indian support.

[Answer] No, it is not so and there is no substance to the report. No monetary or other aid has been received from India. Indian leaders have used the opportunity to make these statements and incite trouble. The people of Sind are patriotic and they are making sacrifices in order to restore democracy, not to receive 500 or 1,500 rupees. These reports are false and have no basis in truth.

[Question] Can India profit from the situation?

[Answer] The enemy is always looking for an opening. India has suffered the wounds of division and the separation of Sind from Bombay. We have seen what happened in former East Pakistan. But India is not in a position to take immediate advantage of the situation. I do not see any such thing happening. One hears rumors of the buildup of troops on the Indian borders. But yesterday a man was here who had come from a village close to the border; he said that the rumor was false--there are no Indian troops on the border.

[Question] All these reports then are sheer hearsay and speculation?

[Answer] I think so.

[Question] Pir Pagara has suggested a roundtable conference.

[Answer] I will not say anything in this connection. He has his own policy, we have ours. It is not seemly for me to say anything or to criticize.

[Question] Should a roundtable conference be convened to find a solution for the present political crisis?

[Answer] A roundtable conference will prove useless as long as the MRD leaders refuse to talk with the president or the government. The leaders would not participate in the conference; and since one of the protagonists would be absent, the conference would be unable to achieve its objective.

[Question] How many persons have been killed and how many arrested in the campaign in Sind?

[Answer] More than a hundred have been killed in Moro, Khairpur, Nathan Shah and other areas, and thousands are in jail.

[Question] Has the MRD compiled any statistics?

[Answer] I do not know.

[Question] Could you explain the reasons for the intensity of the campaign in Sind?

[Answer] A grave feeling of deprivation has intensified the campaign. Education and understanding have brought a realization of rights. Anyway, the people of Sind are not made of putty; they are also human beings. As Mirza Ghalib says, "For a hundred generations, my ancestors have been warriors by profession. Poetry alone is not a source of honor to me." The people of Sind were warriors at one time; they have learned again how to face hardships bravely. The silence of three provinces and indifference to their problems can also heighten emotions.

[Question] Can this sense of deprivation take a different course in the future?

[Answer] If no solution is found, the campaign can take another form. This is possible and Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has alluded to it.

[Question] The North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan also suffer from a sense of deprivation, but they are silent.

[Answer] I do not know why they are silent. Perhaps they have obtained greater rights. What other reason could there be?

[Question] Could it be that Baluchi politicians have adopted this policy in order to intensify the feelings of deprivation among the people of Sind and thus cause the sense of deprivation to take a separatist course?

[Answer] But Punjab does not want separation; why, then, is it silent? Punjab would not want Sind or any other province to separate, yet it is silent. If things continue this way, separatists could profit from it.

[Question] How can this sense of deprivation be ended?

[Answer] We need God's help; there seems to be no possibility of a solution at present.

[Question] If democracy is restored and elections are held, will the feelings of deprivation be ended?

[Answer] On condition that the period of democracy lasts a long time and democracy proceeds on its course safely. Nothing will be gained if martial law is imposed after 2 or 5 years. Five years is not a long period for democracy. The late Bhutto remained in office for 5 years but not much was gained; many years are needed for that. If democracy is established on a firm basis for a lengthy period, the sense of deprivation may be alleviated. These conditions would not have arisen if democracy had continued to exist after the creation of Pakistan.

[Question] To remedy the sense of deprivation among the small provinces, Khawaja Mohammad Safdar, chairman of the Advisory Council, has suggested the establishment of a commission composed of the chief justice and judges from the four provinces. The commission would enquire into the reasons for the feelings of deprivation and submit its report on ways to end them. What is your opinion about such a commission?

[Answer] Nothing will come of it. We have a department for the eradication of corruption that is itself suffering from that evil. Committees and commissions are really a waste of time. Concrete and fundamental measures are needed and the establishment of democracy is the first stage on the journey.

[Question] The landowners of Sind are putting up intense resistance for the first time. Would you explain the reasons for this?

[Answer] One circle holds that the people have forced the landowners to take to the streets, another group thinks that the landowners have brought out the people. I think that both views are based on conjecture. Every resident of Sind, be he important or humble, is suffering from a sense of deprivation and it is this feeling that has pushed them toward the campaign. No one has been forcibly brought in by another. Those who wear white nowadays are not wealthy; they are also deprived, and, according to their station in life, are in need and helpless. Both the peasant and the landowner are suffering; for example, cotton is 160 rupees per maund; but fertilizers, chemicals and other materials are so expensive that by harvest time the landowner has no money left over. Owning air-conditioned cars is not a sign of importance but is mere extravagance. Things are kept going with money borrowed from the banks. All of the leaders who are now in jail owe money to the banks.

[Question] Would you support agricultural reforms undertaken by the government?

[Answer] The government wants to bring about ruin. The law should be enforced with regard to those who have avoided agricultural reform. Mian Tufail Muhammad, head of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami, has mentioned Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Pir of Ramipur and me in connection with agricultural reform. As far as I am concerned, I am satisfied that the reform has been carried out.

[Question] As for Sind's sense of deprivation, the president has said that a quota system is being enforced with regard to federal jobs.

[Answer] You can see for yourself the practical results of that and the extent of the rights enjoyed by the residents of Sind. When an application is made to officials for employment, the man with a B average who comes recommended gets the job whereas the capable man with an A average fails to find work. There are innumerable examples of this.

[Question] MRD members had planned to offer themselves for arrest during the campaign; but later, railroad tracks were uprooted and trains, installations, jails and police stations were attacked. How did hooliganism and vandalism become part of the campaign?

[Answer] I have seen with my own eyes that the administration resorts to violence first; the people then become incensed and start breaking things. This has happened twice in Hala. All the processions held here are definitely peaceful, as was confirmed by the team of visiting foreign journalists. But when the police became violent and fired on unarmed citizens and threw tear gas, the people became disorderly. Children were fired on in Hala and two pedestrians, a man and a woman, as well as four children were wounded. This is how incitement occurs.

[Question] It is said that two people were killed by the shots.

[Answer] They were not killed but wounded.

[Question] Can subversive elements act under cover of the campaign?

[Answer] They certainly can.

[Question] This would discredit the campaign?

[Answer] You are right. In fact, all kinds of people join the campaign and some of them have government patronage. But MRD members know these individuals and any subversion under cover of the campaign is discouraged.

[Question] Retired Lt Gen Faiz Ali Chishti is demanding the restoration of article 6 together with the 1973 constitution and has declared that he is ready to submit himself to the court. What is your opinion about this?

[Answer] When the gentleman you mention shared in the power structure, he spoke differently; since relinquishing power, he has been making statements of a different sort. His statements are never censored and are published in full. God alone knows what goes on behind the scenes.

[Question] What are your views concerning provincial autonomy and confederation?

[Answer] All provinces should receive provincial autonomy in accordance with the 1973 constitution.

[Question] Do Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Province want more than that?

[Answer] For the present, provincial autonomy should be limited to the extent granted by the 1973 constitution. Any decisions about the future should be left to an elected assembly.

[Question] What is your opinion regarding municipal elections?

[Answer] The MRD is boycotting the municipal elections, and, as a result of its appeal, 75 percent of the seats in Sind have remained vacant. Only in some areas will the desired results be obtained from holding municipal elections. The situation can become strained. The government should understand the feelings of the people and pay attention to holding general rather than municipal elections.

9863

CSO: 4656/06

SIND'S PROFESSOR SHAH EXPOUNDS ON MRD CAMPAIGN

Karachi JANG in Urdu 4 Oct 83 p 6

[Excerpts] Prof Ghulam Mustafa Shah is an expert in literature and research. Because of his great intellectual and mental prowess, he has made a name for himself not only in Sind but also in Pakistani and foreign literary circles. Over 15 percent of the officers holding high positions in the Sind and federal secretariat have been his students.

The MRD campaign of civil disobedience that began on 14 August and the Sind movement have transformed Professor Shah from a literary intellectual into a political intellectual. His powerful speeches have attracted the attention of official and other political circles. He bemoans the deprivation suffered by the Sindhi people. He vehemently protests the killing and jailing of people and he is saddened by the high-handed and harsh attitude of the government. Here we present his ideas in the form of an interview.

[Question] What is the solution to the present crisis?

[Answer] General elections should be held immediately. There is no other solution. The demands of the MRD are the demands of the entire nation. Even if there is some difficulty in granting the MRD demands, at least Mian Tufail Mohammad is an "angel" and on his suggestion, if nothing else, general elections should be called. With every passing day, the possibility of an improvement in situation becomes more remote. The country's rulers should read the writing on the wall and devise plans to avert the impending disaster.

[Question] What are the causes of the feeling of deprivation in Sind?

[Answer] Feelings of deprivation originated in Sind in the time of the late Liaquat Ali Khan, when plans were hatched to make Karachi the capital of the nation and to separate Karachi from Sind. Quaid-e Azam had suggested Thana Bola Khan, a place 60 miles from Karachi, as the site for Pakistan's capital. But after his death, a plan was made to separate Karachi from Sind. This is how the feeling of deprivation began in Sind. Before the bureaucratic rule in Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan had 4 years in which neither a constitution was formulated nor elections held. Through the use of emotional slogans about internal and external dangers, people were given no opportunity to express their opinions. Every succeeding ruler has raised similar slogans and taken away the people's rights. The ruler's own will was imposed on smaller provinces

and the masses were not trusted. An atmosphere of doubt and apprehension about the safety and security of the country was created, and this in turn was used to crush any opposition. The Sindi people were subjected to even greater hardships. The country was made one unit. According to a 1947 act, any province could gain separation from the center through a referendum after a lapse of 10 year's time. In 1957, the assembly passed a bill against the one unit set-up, but in 1958 martial law was imposed. The misfortune is that the people of Punjab have never had any experience with democratic rule, whereas in Sind, up until martial law, a democratic and parliamentary system was functioning successfully. That is why Punjab has never opposed martial law as wholeheartedly as Sind. An industrialist from Punjab told me this one day when we were at his house. He said that following the imposition of martial law, Gen Azam [Khan] had advised him to send his sons to the military because, as he said, civilian rule would never return to Pakistan. One reason for the sense of deprivation in Sind is that only yes-men from there have been associated with the government and this has alienated competent people. This attitude toward young men in matters of employment in particular has created a deep feeling of hatred and frustration in the minds of the youth.

[Question] What are the causes of the strength of the movement in Sind?

[Answer] A feeling of acute deprivation in every aspect of life has given rise to this.

[Question] In answer to your appeal to former judges and intellectuals of Punjab and the frontier province, Abdul Qadir Hassan [a JANG columnist] asked you and Hamida Khore to examine the deprivations of the Punjabi people.

[Answer] Relative deprivation exists everywhere. The problems of the youth in Sind and Punjab are no different from those of the youth in Baluchistan. Even then Punjab has the advantage that the majority of its civil officers are from there. On the other hand, in Sind and the federal secretariat, Sindis count for less than 1 percent. I do not understand why brother Abdul Qadir Hassan overlooked this fact. We want everyone to live like brothers and share in one another's sorrows. We want to live on the basis of equality.

[Question] You have demanded provincial autonomy in light of the 1940 Pakistan Resolution. Does this mean that you regard the 1973 constitution as a failure?

[Answer] If this constitution were free from defects it would not have become defunct. However, only elected assemblies can decide the issue of independence. Our basic issue is that all four provinces should have equal representation in the federal government and should enjoy equal rights.

[Question] Because of a sense of deprivation, Sind began a movement for separation from Bombay. Is the present movement of the same nature?

[Answer] Now oppression is more severe. In those days, Hindus oppressed us. Now we are being exploited by our own brethren. When one unit was formed, Sind had in its treasury a surplus of 330 million rupees, revenues spent on

education had an excess reserve of 2.4 million. All this money was taken by the center. Punjab, on the contrary, was in debt. After the one unit setup, resources of Sind were used for the center and even today a large share of the federal budget comes from Sind. Despite this, the people of Sind are rewarded with deprivation. This process should end immediately. The Sindhi people should be given their legitimate rights.

[Question] In certain circles, the present Sind movement is called the movement for Sindhudesh. What is your opinion?

[Answer] This is not a movement for Sindhudesh. Demanding democracy and elections is not a demand for Sindhudesh. It is easy to vilify the weak and Sind is also being vilified for originating this movement. Facts are being covered up and an attempt is afoot to mislead the masses in Punjab by raising the bogey of Sindhudesh. But I want to make it clear that the people of Sind want elections, and that is not a crime. It is not right to vilify a movement on the basis of isolated incidents; such incidents happened even during the 1977 agitation. The present democratic movement has nothing to do with Sindhudesh.

[Question] Recently, you had a meeting with G.M. Sayed. What is his attitude?

[Answer] He favors a greater degree of freedom than is granted in the 1973 constitution. Perhaps that is why he is opposed to the MRD campaign. But in my opinion he thus risks his political career and by opposing the movement he is making a big mistake. After all, it is he who presented the Pakistan Resolution [Sind] in the assembly for the first time and now he wants separation from Pakistan. This is a big issue and we should seriously consider the results and consequences of it. As far as my meeting with him is concerned, it was of a personal nature and I continue to meet with him frequently.

[Question] In the event of a further deterioration in the situation, will G.M. Sayed consider giving practical shape to his ideas?

[Answer] This can best be answered by him. But rumormongering is the order of the day and inventing rumors about leaders of smaller provinces and ridiculing them has become a general hobby. Doubts are cast on the intentions of people, they are branded enemies of Pakistan and attempts are made to cast them in the most odious light of history. The innocent masses of Sind are demonstrating on the streets. When they demand votes and an elected government they are branded violent agitators. I opposed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto when he was at the zenith of his power. But whatever he did, it was in a democratic manner and not through force. In his time, elected institutions were in existence, no matter what their stature was. But today, the opinions of people carry no weight. Through the use of force, people are being driven to the depths of despair. This can lead to anarchy and unrest. This situation poses a serious threat to the nation.

[Question] Can the 'waderas' [aristocrats] and 'pirs' [holy men] lead a democratic movement?

[Answer] The aristocrat and the pirs are helpless against public power. They are also human. They have feelings. Today's aristocrat is not the aristocrat of ancient times. He also is inspired by democratic ideas. Bhutto was an aristocrat but he taught the peasants to speak against the lauded aristocrats. Bhutto astounded even the masses of Punjab. Were not Gandhi and Nehru aristocrats? Democracy is not the property of anyone. For the first time in the history of Sind the intellectual, the aristocrat and the worker have joined on one platform for the sake of democracy. Wasn't G.M. Sayed an aristocrat? Didn't Quaid-e Azam appoint him chairman of the Sind Muslim League? Isn't Pir Pagaro an aristocrat? The aristocrats and the priests of Sind feel compelled to move with the changing times. That is why they are playing their historical role in the struggle for democracy.

[Question] The opinion in certain circles is that the wadera does not fight for democracy. He only fights for his own interests.

[Answer] This is an erroneous assumption. Since land reforms, the social position of the waderas has changed. Education has enlightened them with democratic values and their children as well. Leadership of the movement is in the hands of these youth.

[Question] You asked members of the Sind Council and Advisory Council to resign. What has been the result?

[Answer] Some members have announced their resignations. I would also appeal to the intellectuals not to participate in conferences and seminars taking place in Islamabad.

[Question] Isn't the holding of elections to local bodies a sign that the masses of Sind are with the government?

[Answer] Conducting elections by dividing Sind in two parts is a serious irregularity. When radio and television announce daily that all is well, then what is the point of holding elections in two stages?

[Question] In your opinion, what is the nature of a model election schedule?

[Answer] For this purpose, action should be taken according to the conventions of 1973 and general elections should be held under the supervision of the judiciary.

[Question] How can the conflict and bloodshed in Sind be ended quickly?

[Answer] People are making sacrifices not for money but for the restoration of their rights. The only effective cure for the situation is the immediate calling of general elections.

[Question] You were the vice chancellor of Sind University for 5 years. What are the causes of unrest there?

[Answer] Inappropriate and irresponsible behavior is the biggest cause of unrest. Sind University and other educational institutions are victims of the same attitude. Intellectual powers of the youth are becoming rusty through disuse. This does not augur well for the nation's future. Young men are not permitted to realize their full potential and their growth is retarded. These young men are angry at the perpetrators of this cruelty. Steps should be taken to rid the youth of this pent up anger.

[Question] It has been said of the Sind bureaucrat that while in service he is loyal to the government but once he leaves service he becomes a [Sindi] nationalist. What is your opinion?

[Answer] Sind has not produced bureaucrats. The only bureaucrats were Ghulam Mohammad, Iskander Mirza and Chaudhary Mohammad Ali. While in power they made the country intellectually, morally and productively bankrupt. Today the country is at the crossroads of history.

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INDIA WORKS TO ADVANCE SEPARATIST FORCES IN STATES

Karachi JANG in Urdu 31 Oct 83 p 8

[Article by Z.A. Saleeri: "Pakistan's Burden"]

[Text] One of the burdens Pakistan carries is its hostility toward India. The truth is that India never honestly recognized Pakistan. Of course, the demand for Pakistan during the British rule was so strong that there was no alternative but to divide the subcontinent. The Indian leader, especially those of the Nehru dynasty, have never closed the files on Pakistan. To this end, not only did India become an aggressor, but it also left no stone unturned in taking advantage of Pakistan's weaknesses. India did not hesitate to take military action when the Pakistani Government and the Awami League had a confrontation. The separation of East Pakistan was a triumph for India. The physical separation not only weakened the unity of Pakistan but also discredited the philosophical base of Pakistan as a Muslim country. This philosophical base was buried under the strong tide of Bengali nationalism. Mrs. Gandhi denounced this national philosophy when she vanquished Bhutto. Now she feels that if one state would secede on the basis of feelings of nationality, other states can also act the same way and make Pakistan non-existent. Thus, India is working fulltime to develop regional nationalistic feelings in various states of Pakistan in order to destroy Pakistan. This is India's national policy toward Pakistan; it is not flexible or aimed at improving our mutual relations.

India, despite its numerous internal problems, is taking a keen interest in political developments in Sind. It ignores the rebellion in southern India against the "brahmin" rule of northern India. Assam's preparations for war, the Sikhs' readiness to fight to the death and confrontation between Hindus and Muslims in Kashmir. In Sind, terrorists are being encouraged and the International Sindhi Convention is being staged just to announce that India is willing to adopt Sind for its protection. Look at this inconsistency in policy; Indira Gandhi is adamantly against any state desiring independence in her own country and is doing her best to put an end to this trend, while at the same time she encourages Pakistani states to rebel against the central government. In a situation like this, the two countries with a common problem should cooperate with each other instead of encouraging various states against the central government. But here it's a different case. Indira Gandhi seems not to care about the fire and destruction in her

own country and has plenty of time at her disposal to make trouble in Pakistan.

The fact is that Mrs Gandhi does not have to worry but the problems in her country. A leader worries when his country is at odds with a superpower. India has no problem with the United States, nor is it in any danger from the USSR. The United States and Russia are the two world powers. They control the movements of the world. Solidarity cannot succeed in liberating Poland unless Moscow gives the green light. If Washington does not so desire, no one can stop Israel's ill-advised actions in depriving Palestinians of their right to live in the West Bank. The superpowers played an important role in our loss of East Pakistan. The USSR gave full support to India with weapons in this aggression and the United States did not even lift its little finger in protest. Neither of these countries hesitated to recognize a part of Pakistan as an independent country. There is no doubt that India has both America and Russia on its side; and there are reasons for this.

The Hindus should be grateful to the British for getting Delhi, the capital of India, following the principle of majority rule. In addition, India accepted the West's cultural aggression. India has adopted Western ways and it has satisfied and pleased the West. Since it is not possible to beat the Soviet Union in the arms race, the West is left with only one option for international supremacy--cultural supremacy. By accepting Western ways, India is satisfying Western egos and becoming its favorite. As for Russia, India has strong political relations with it and uses it for economic and military aid as well as for gaining international prestige. Having straightened its relations with the two superpowers, India is not worried about any international power helping rebels within the country. Thus, having seen to her internal problems, Mrs Gandhi feels free to interfere in her neighbor's internal affairs.

Compared with India, Pakistan prefers to follow its own path. First, its philosophy of Muslim nationality is opposed to the Western concept of nationality, which depends on the local customs and language. Second, Pakistan's open declaration that it supports a government based on Islamic principles makes it an opponent of Western and Soviet communist culture. Thus, Pakistan fails to gain approval from either the West or the Soviets. Every time it has a confrontation with India, it finds itself alone. Its internal affairs are interfered with and it is opposed on the international level.

This is the background against which India is interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs by fostering regional nationality as opposed to the central Muslim nationalism. India stirred up Bengali nationalistic feelings and divided Pakistan into two parts, and now it is trying to stir up Sindhi feelings to deprive Pakistan of another state. Whatever method India employs, we should try to understand it and take appropriate actions. Trying to change India's ways is useless.

The second problem of Pakistan is the product of anti-Pakistani activity within our own country. There is no dearth of persons in our country who start the fire of regional politics that is fanned by India. It is said that Pakistan is made up of states and these states should enjoy full freedom while Pakistan acts as a federation to these states with full powers. This concept is completely wrong. Pakistan is not made up of states. There was no movement for the separation of states in this subcontinent; the movement was for a Muslim nation in which all Muslims living on this subcontinent took part, whether they lived in states with Muslims as majority or minority. In 1944, when Gandhi proposed that people in each state should be consulted if those states were to be divided according to the Lahore Resolution the Quaid-e Azam replied that Pakistan's movement was not a movement of states but of Muslims as a nation and we want our right to independence as Muslims. When state assemblies were asked to vote on joining India or Pakistan, votes were divided by religion. Muslims and non-Muslims voted differently. Later, three other states were divided in order to separate Hindu areas from Muslim areas. No matter which viewpoint you take, Pakistan represents Muslim nationality; it is not the result of putting some states together. People who support this concept are playing into India's hands and are instrumental in defeating their own country. We will have to work hard against our enemy India, but it should not be difficult to take care of the unfriendly elements in our own country. Let us get rid of this monkey on our back!

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BRIEFS

PDP STRONGLY FAVOR PARTY ELECTIONS--Khoshab, 10 Nov--The acting president of the defunct Pakistan Democratic Party [PDP], Rana Zafrullah, has said that elections on a party basis are essential for the establishment of real democracy. The government's program for holding elections on a nonparty basis will prove detrimental to the nation and the country and will impose a permanent dictatorship on the people. He was addressing the members of the MRD at the party general secretary's residence here. Earlier Mr Bandhiani, the Sindhi leader, said: Every party registered or unregistered has the right to participate in the elections and the government has no right to impose restrictions on any party. He explained the recent violence in Sind and said: Numerous people were thrust into jails during the campaign on the pretext of being bandits and lawbreakers. The leader of the Punjab PDP, Mohammad Jahangir, said that solidarity week was being observed until 12 November, during which time members are to exert pressure on the government in the form of processions and marches for the restoration of democracy. He said: There will be no room for haggling in the talks with the government and all steps will be taken for restoration of the legal rights of the people. [Text] [GF181213 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 11 Nov 83 p 1]

FOOD AID PROGRAM--The world food program has so far given food aid to Pakistan worth over \$410 million for ongoing developmental activities and emergency measures. This was stated in a press release of the directorate of the Afghan refugees issued in connection with the 20th anniversary of the world food program being observed tomorrow. [Text] [BK201624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Nov 83]

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